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STANLEY FORD'S "THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV"

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

THE WORLD

IN MINIATURE;

EDITED BY

FREDERIC SHOBERL.

Turkey,

BEING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE MANNERS, CUSTOMS,
DRESSES, AND OTHER PECULIARITIES
CHARACTERISTIC OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE

TURKISH EMPIRE;

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED A SKETCH

OF THE

History of the Turks:

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

A. L. CASTELLAN,

Author of Letters on the Morea and Constantinople,

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TURKEY

In Miniature.

MAHOMET III.

THIRTEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1595—1603.

This prince, whom the jealousy of Amurat, his father, had kept aloof from the command of armies, was dreaded by all who had the means of knowing him in his retirement. He had manifested a cruel disposition and a readiness to punish. No sooner was he girt with

the sword of Othman, than, upon pretext of securing himself upon the throne, he caused nineteen of his brothers to be strangled before his face; and ten odahlyes, pregnant by Amurat, to be thrown into the sea.

The empire was in the greatest disorder. The capital, threatened by famine, obliged the sultan to open the treasures amassed by Amurat, for the purpose of averting this calamity; but that of war succeeded. The waywodes of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia, tributaries of the Porte, availed themselves of the protection of the emperor of Germany to revolt. The Turks were beaten and lost several towns. Ferhad, the vizir, promoted for the third time

to that office, ineffectually attempted the following year to recover Wallachia. He was pursued into Nicopolis, and lost a battle before that city which was taken by the allies. This general, less fortunate than his predecessor, who had obtained pardon for his defeat, by sharing his immense wealth with the sultana-valydeh, was punished with the fatal cord. His successor, fearful of risking his fortune and his life in a war already so disastrous, prevailed upon his master to take the command of the troops. The sultan accordingly set out with great pomp from Constantinople, in the month of September, 1596, and put himself at the head of an army of two hundred thousand men, of which he

formed several divisions. He first took Agria, in spite of the archduke Matthias, who did not hesitate to offer him battle, though his army was far inferior in strength : but superiority in tactics gained the advantage over numbers, and the guards of the Ottoman emperor being cut in pieces, he was himself exposed to imminent danger. The Turks abandoned their camp to the enemy. The cavalry, attracted by the richness of the booty, having dismounted, notwithstanding the repeated prohibitions of the archduke, was suddenly charged by the Turks. The victory was thus wrested from the confederates, who were obliged to retreat into Hungary.

Immediately after this engagement, the waywode of Wallaehia, bribed by the sultan's gold, concluded a secret negotiation, by which he acknowledged himself a vassal of the Porte. On the other hand, Sigismund Battori resigned to the emperor Rudolph all his claims upon Transylvania.

On the sultan's return, the plague broke out at Constantinople. Never had it yet made such ravages. Seventeen princesses, sisters of the emperor, died in one day, and a great number of sultanas and ohdalyes, or concubines, were carried off. Mahomet himself had a slight attack of the disease. On escaping this danger, he relinquished the reins of government to his mother, the

sultana-valydeh, and thought of nothing but his personal pleasures. The sultana soon abused her power, and bestowed her confidence on eunuchs, who employed their influence only in tyrannising over the provinces of the empire. Amid this anarchy, the French ambassador, M. Savary de Brèves, found means to be serviceable to his countrymen, and to obtain for them that justice which was denied to Mahometans themselves. At the peril of his life, he caused the Christian religion and its ministers to be protected, and enforced respect for the French flag. He persuaded Mahomet to send an embassy to Henry IV.

In this state of things the spahys,

indignant at being governed by a woman, threatened to burn the seraglio, unless its gates were opened to them. This tumult roused the emperor from his lethargy. He received the chiefs of the mutineers, who with vehemence represented their grievances, pointed out the abuses which enfeebled the empire, and demanded the heads of the eunuchs. Mahomet, trembling for his own safety, durst not refuse. The proscribed persons were brought forth and strangled on the spot. The troops, being now satisfied, dispersed, and the sedition was appeased; but the sultan called out the janissaries, who had taken no part in this disturbance, and ordered them to chastise the insurgents.

The mufty, charged with favouring the spahys, was deposed ; and his successor issued a fetva, or proclamation, declaring the spahys traitors to the emperor, if they did not instantly lay down their arms. This proclamation being published in the city, the gates of which were shut, most of the spahys dismounted from their horses, signified their obedience to the fetva, and delivered up their leaders who were put to death, and other officers appointed in their stead. This cavalry, thus humbled, retained a feeling of animosity against the janissaries, and continual fights ensued between them whenever they met in any number. To put an end to these disorders, the sultan re-

moved all the spahys from Constantinople, and sent them against the Persians, who had retaken the province of Chyrvan.

While his numerous armies at once threatened Persia, the Asiatic rebels, and the German empire, the effeminate sultan, shut up in his harem, left the cares of government to his grand vizir and his ministers. Plunged in debauchery of every kind, he exhibited, though in the prime of life, all the appearance of decrepitude. One of the sultanas, the mother of his eldest son, encouraged an impatience to reign in the heart of that young prince. His seditious expressions, with which the

seraglio resounded, were repeated to the emperor, who condemned both the mother and son to die. Soon afterwards famine, which had terrified his subjects at the commencement of his reign, ravaged Constantinople for several months. It was succeeded by pestilence, and Mahomet, whose strength was completely exhausted at the age of thirty-seven, this time sunk under that scourge, on the 21st of December, 1603, after a reign of nine years.

Fate preserved the Ottoman empire during this reign, from part of the evils which so imbecile a prince, or his ministers, might have occasioned in

his name. Neither were the wars in Hungary, and the frequent insurrections in the Turkish dominions in Asia, so prejudicial as might have been expected.

ACHMET (AHHMED) I.

FOURTEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1603—1617.

This prince was only fifteen years old when he ascended the throne, in 1603. He was less cruel, but not less despotie than his predecessors. Achmet had a brother, whom he did not put to death, but was content with confining him in a prison, and with seizing the wealth of his grandmother, the valydeh, whom he sent back to the old seraglio; and with this money he bestowed gratuities on the troops.

Some paehas, taking advantage of

the sultan's youth, attempted to shake off the yoke. The capitan-pacha was sent against the rebels, whose audacity was encouraged by a strong reinforcement of Persians. Calender, one of these pachas, after making himself master of Antioch, Damascus, and Tripoli in Syria, proclaimed himself sovereign of that province. The capitan-pacha, having no experience in military operations upon land, was defeated; and a small rebel squadron intercepted a convoy carrying the imposts levied in Egypt to Constantinople. The Ottoman admiral was summoned to give an account of his conduct, strangled before his arrival at court, and all his property confiscated.

This reverse induced the sultan to wish for peace with the emperor Rudolph, and the treaty of Vienna was signed on the 9th of November, 1606. Meanwhile, the self-created despot of Syria was extending his conquests in Asia. The grand-vizir passed over to that country, and efficaciously opposed the progress of the rebel, who, compelled, notwithstanding a vigorous resistance, to retreat to Erzerum, his capital, secured his treasures and fled to Persia. The vizir, highly appreciating the valour of Calender, strove to gain him over, and prevailed upon him to set out for the purpose of throwing himself at the emperor's feet and soliciting his pardon. From that moment all the

provinces of Asia returned to their allegiance. Calender, on his arrival at Constantinople, was admitted to the presence of the emperor; he accosted him with a firmness mingled with respect, and obtained his pardon, and even the government of Temeswar in Hungary; but having two years afterwards retained part of the revenues of his pachalik, he was put to death in his palace and in the midst of his troops.

The grand-vizir then proceeded through Asia with his army, restoring tranquillity to its provinces, and received orders to march against the sofy; but learning that the emperor had been prejudiced against him, he repaired to the court, confounded his enemies,

secured the approbation and confidence of his master, and returned to his camp, resolved to extinguish the last sparks of rebellion, and accomplished his object as much by stratagem as by force.

The archduke Matthias, having become king of Hungary in the life-time of his brother, the emperor Rudolph, renewed the treaties concluded with the Porte, which, having thus no cause for hostility with Europe, renewed the war with Persia, which however produced no event worthy of record.

The grand signor employed his leisure in the erection of a magnificent mosque in the Hippodrome, close to that of St. Sophia, and surpassing that edifice in splendour. Domestic tranquillity was

soon disturbed by a very slight cause. The mufty prohibited the use of tobacco, then recently introduced into Turkey, because it produces a kind of intoxication; but the partisans of that plant were so numerous, that they imposed silence on the imans and on the mufty himself. The plague having again broken out at Constantinople, the dogs, which are innumerable in that city, were accused of propagating the contagion; but the mufty espoused the cause of those animals and would not suffer them to be killed. They were therefore collected together and transported to an uninhabited island.

After an inactivity of two years, a long interval for the Turks to remain at

peace, troops were sent into Moldavia, the new waywode of which had neglected to pay his tribute and seemed disposed to shake off the yoke. The defaulter was slain; and the sultan at the same time recovered the paramountship over Transylvania. The inhabitants had deposed their waywode, Battori, and invested Bethlem Gabor with that dignity. The latter, supported by the Turks, engaged his competitor, killed him and received from the Porte the investiture of Transylvania, as a vassal, and paid the tribute. The peace with the court of Vienna was not interrupted by this event.

Facardin (Fakhred-dyn) princee of the Druses, who at first took up arms to

clear Syria from the banditti by which it was infested, gave in the sequel some alarm to the sultan ; but after defeating the Turks, he offered to pay tribute and the sultan confirmed him in his little sovereignty.

Persia, dissatisfied with the peace which she had signed, again had recourse to arms. Shah Abbas, who was ardently desirous of war, set out from Ispahan in 1616, marched against the Turks and routed them near Bassorah. Pursuing his victory, he recovered all that part of Asia Minor which his ancestors had lost.

Achmet, ashamed of remaining inactive in his palace, while Abbas was triumphing at the head of the Persian

armies, prepared to take the field, but was seized with a violent disorder, which put an end to his life on the 15th of November, 1617, in his thirtieth year, after a glorious reign of fourteen years.

This prince really proved himself less cruel than other sultans, and made his authority more respected by chusing his ministers with discernment. He acquired glory without fighting himself; he knew how to render justice to his subjects without ever proscribing any but criminals; and was sensible that the welfare of nations ought to be the sole object of the attention of sovereigns. His harem contained, it is said, three thousand females; but he was never led

by any of them to commit a fault of consequence, nor did he ever consult them in matters of government. Abhorring idleness, he strictly obeyed that precept of the Koran, which enjoins every man to work with his hands that he may be able to earn a livelihood, and made the horn rings used in drawing the bow. These rings were in great request among the courtiers, who purchased them at a high price, doubtless without making much use of them.

MUSTAPHA (MOUSSTHAFÄ) I.

FIFTEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1617—1618.

During the reign of Mahomet III. Achmet, confined in a narrow prison with his brother Mustapha, and exposed to the same dangers, promised to spare his life, if fortune should ever raise him to the throne. He did more than keep his word ; for when, after a reign of fourteen years, he found himself at the point of death, and considered that all his children were still very young, this prince sent for his ministers, and told them that he was authorised by the

example of the khalyfs to chuse the eldest of the imperial race for his successor ; and he therefore desired, for the good of his subjects, that his brother might fill the throne after his death. Accordingly, no sooner had Achmet closed his eyes, than Mustapha was proclaimed emperor. It was soon found that a worse choice could scarcely have been made. A long captivity during the two last reigns had impaired the intellects of this prince. Manifesting a strong antipathy to women, and prodigal without motive, he indulged the most childish whims : conferring wealth all at once upon those who had no kind of merit to recommend them, or appointing persons wholly

incapable to the most important posts, he highly enjoyed the surprise and embarrassment arising from so unexpected a change of fortune. To such a length did he carry these frolics, that he gave the pachaliks of Cairo and Damaseus to two itehoglans who were mere children. These caprices impeded the operations of the dyvan. Under such a sultan, the grand-vizir presumed to violate the law of nations in a manner till then unprecedented, in the person of M. de Sanev, ambassador of France, whose secretary had favoured the flight of a Moldavian prince. This secretary and the drogman, or interpreter, of the French legation were put to the torture, and the ambassador himself escaped

that punishment only by purchasing with a large sum the protection of the mufty.

The sultana-valydeh, incensed at the aversion which the emperor displayed for her sex and at the little influence which he allowed to herself, soon conspired against him. The ministers, convinced of the sultan's utter incapacity, excited the janissaries and spahys to insurrection. A rumour was circulated that he designed to strangle his nephews ; and the people demanded his deposition, for the purpose of raising to his place a son of Achmet's whose memory was dear to them.

OTHMAN II.

SIXTEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1618—1622.

The life of Mustapha was spared. He was shut up in one of the towers of the seraglio on the 17th of March, 1618, and prince Othman, twelve years of age, appeared among the people, who approved by their acclamations the choice of the soldiery.

The ministers calculated upon governing in the name of this boy. The grand-vizir put himself at the head of a powerful army, which was raised by the emperor Achmet, and had been

long waiting to be led into Persia. The young sultan was left under the care of a supple and ambitious lawyer, who had been his preceptor. This man endeavoured to prejudice Othman against the corps of janissaries and advised him to stroll through the city incognito, that he might have the better opportunity of studying the manners of his subjects and discovering abuses.

The zeal of the young sultan for the observance of the laws of the Prophet was extreme. He was shocked at the frequent use which the Turks made of wine, and ordered the delinquents to be put to death. As it happened, almost all those on whom this punishment was inflicted were janissaries ;

and hence arose a bitter hatred between the latter and their emperor.

Meanwhile success attended the arms of the grand-vizir; he retrieved in Persia the losses which the Turks had there sustained, and obliged the sofy to conclude peace. The young prince felt an ardent desire to signalize himself. The waywode of Transylvania, who had gained some advantage in a war against Austria, allied with Poland, proposed to him to besiege Vienna; but the sultan, adhering to the treaties which subsisted between the two empires, resolved to attack the Polish monarch, Sigismund, only. He accordingly marched toward that country at the head of three hundred thousand men, and at-

tacked Vladislaus, Sigismund's son, near Khocsim. The Turks, repulsed with loss, could not even gain possession of a castle which stood on the summit of a steep mountain. It was the wisest policy in the Poles to weary out their enemy: they daily routed in detail the different corps of Othman's army, who persisted in blockading the enemy's camp. He resolved at length upon a general assault. The janissaries, thrice repulsed with slaughter, received orders to charge a fourth time; and when the vizir represented that the flower of the army would be thereby sacrificed, the sultan angrily replied: "When I have lost the asses, I will supply their place with horses." This

expression, being repeated to the janissaries, contributed in an equal degree with the murder of one his brothers, for which he issued orders, to the catastrophe which shortly afterwards befel him. As the repeated attacks of Othman continued to prove unsuccessful, conferences were opened, and peace was concluded.

A report was soon spread that the sultan intended to disband the corps of janissaries, and perhaps to employ the pretext of a pilgrimage to Mecca, in order to transfer the seat of the empire to Damaseus. In spite of the remonstrances of the mufty and all the grandees, he insisted on marrying the sister of sultan Mahomet III. who was already

the wife of a pacha. All Constantinople was filled with indignation. The mufty published a fetvah declaring the marriage incompatible with the dignity of the throne, and the journey to Mecca adverse to the welfare of the state. This decree, in fact, authorized rebellion. The sultan, being informed that the janissaries and spahys were ready to rise, abused the effendys who had come to remonstrate with him. The troops immediately beset the seraglio, put to death the grand-vizir, and demanded Othman's uncle, sultan Mustapha, again for their emperor. They broke open the prison in which that unfortunate prince was confined and removed him from it. He was recognized by the

effendys, and conducted to the old seraglio.

At this intelligence the rage and obstinacy of Othman were converted into despair. He had recourse to intreaties, but it was too late. He quitted the seraglio with some officers who were cut in pieces before his face: he would then have turned back, but was prevented and forced into a mosque, where his rival had just girded on the sword of Othman; but when Mustapha beheld the young prince surrounded by several officers approaching, under the idea that he had gained over the soldiery, he fell at his feet and implored his mercy. "Is this the master ye prefer to me?" cried the unfortunate Othman, with a sar-

castic smile, and loudly expressing the contempt which such a competitor excited, he endeavoured to retrieve his fortunes, but was interrupted by the shouts of the people, who declared that his reign was at an end, but that his life should be spared. Notwithstanding this promise, the new vizir, the principal instigator of this revolution, caused him to be strangled the following day, May the 20th, 1622, in the castle of the Seven Towers, to which he had been removed.

All the faults and all the misfortunes of this young monarch are to be ascribed to his inexperience and to the base flatteries of his courtiers. He was endowed by nature with an

elevated soul, and he would probably have accomplished great things, had he lived till age had matured his reason and cooled the ardour of his passions.

MUSTAPHA

Restored.

1622—1623.

Mustapha, deposed four years before for his total incapacity, had not during that interval become more worthy of the throne. The sultana-valydeh and the grand-vizir assumed the supreme authority. The latter would have taken away the liberty and perhaps the lives of Othman's brothers, but the seraglio rose against him and he was obliged to flee. The pachas of Asia took advantage of this state of affairs to rebel. Anarchy was at its height, when the grandees of the empire assembled and resolved to

chuse a new master, in whose name the government might be administered. As their election could fall only on one of Aehmet's children, they chose Amurat, the eldest, then fifteen years of age. He at first modestly refused the proffered dignity ; but the troops, having been prepared by the aghas for this change, repaired to the first court of the seraglio, shouting : " Long live Murad ! " The young prince then went down to the dyvan, and addressing the assembly with great majesty, he recommended to the mufty and the vizir to enforce the laws and to re-establish order which had been too long interrupted in the empire. Mustapha was again shut up on the 10th of September, 1623, in his former place

of confinement. Some writers assert that he was not put to death, as the life of a person bereft of reason is held sacred by all the professors of the Mahometan religion; but according to others he was soon strangled. The sultana-valydeh was placed in the old seraglio, in order to deprive her of the means of exciting cabals.

AMURAT IV.

SEVENTEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1623—1640.

The first use that Amurat made of his authority was to perform an act of justice and severity ; he condemned the pacha of Cairo for double-dealing. He then directed his attention to the re-establishment of the finances ; for the affairs of Europe and the rebellion of the Asiatic pachas required a considerable expenditure. The Tartars of the Crimea having manifested a disposition to shake off the yoke, the capitain-

pacha collected the whole naval force against those people, while the grand-vizir marched toward Amacyeh, against Abazah, pacha of Erzerum, one of the insurgents. The capitan pacha, having landed at Kaffah, the capital of the Crimea, his troops falling into an ambuscade were almost all cut in pieces, and such as were fortunate enough to escape precipitately re-embarked. The Cossacks, taking advantage of the absence of the Turkish fleet, penetrated into the Bosphorus, struck terror into Constantinople itself, and plundered and burned all the adjacent villages. The Turks were forced to secure the entrance of the port with an iron chain; and the fleet of the capitan-pacha, which

was hastily recalled, had great difficulty to disperse these pirates.

The state of affairs in Asia was not more prosperous. The grand-vizir wasted his army before Bagdad, and left provinces in insurrection behind him. To crown all, the janissaries who remained in the capital excited fresh disturbances: they murdered the caï-macam, and could not be appeased without the distribution of money; but Amurat afterwards caused the mutineers to be secured and their heads struck off.

The Persians meanwhile entered the Ottoman territory at several points, and overran Dyarbekir, Palestine, and Arabia; they even made themselves mas-

ters of Medina, and were advancing upon Trebisond. Amid these disasters, Amurat found a wise minister, in whom he could repose confidence, and conferred on him the post of the caïmacam, who had been put to death by the janissaries. This officer, whose name was Hafez-Ali, restored order in the finances, and advised his sovereign to shew himself frequently to the people and the janissaries, that he might excite their respect and affection for his person. The sultan mingled in the sports of the soldiers and sometimes won the prize in contests with the bow and the djeryd. Such was the training to which he submitted before he put himself at the head of his armies.

The Ottoman troops having been beaten in Asia, the vizir, to whom were attributed all these disasters, was sacrificed. The caïmaeam, who was appointed his successor, exhorted the sultan to listen to the overtures for peace made to him by Persia, and to take advantage of this negociation to draw the rebellious pacha away from the interest of the sofy. The minister was accordingly dispatched to Asia, had an interview with Abazah, offered him the government of Bosnia, and persuaded the pacha to return with him to Constantinople, to have his appointment confirmed. The emperor graciously received the homage of the

rebel, who, in the sequel, rendered him important services.

At this juncture Shah Abbas died, in 1628; and having left the reins of government in the hands of a son, incapable of guiding them, the Ottomans hoped that this change would render Persia less formidable. It was therefore determined to prosecute the war, and the grand-vizir set out for Mossul, which was the rendezvous of his army.

What service soever Hafez-Ali might render his master in the expedition against Persia, his presence would have been more beneficial to Amurat, who was yet too young to govern alone. Accustomed to the regularity which his prime minister had established, he was

frequently incensed at the faults committed before his face; he gave several examples of severity, forbade large assemblages of people, and the use of opium and tobacco for which he had a strong aversion; but he did not manifest the same dislike of wine; for, in spite of the prohibition of the Prophet, no sooner had he tasted that dangerous liquor, than he found it impossible to do without it.

The Ottoman army at first gained some advantages over the Persians, and was afterwards beaten. Hafez-Ali, already advanced in years and worn out with the toils of so harassing a war, was attacked by a mortal disease. He immediately wrote to his master, advis-

ing him to make peace, and died a few days afterwards, in 1631. Amurat sincerely lamented the loss of this excellent minister and complied with his last exhortations.

The emyr Facardin, prince of the Druses, was represented to the emperor to be an enemy to monarchy and to the Mahometan religion. He sent against him a squadron of forty galleys, which cast anchor at Tripoli, in Syria. Facardin put his son Ali at the head of his troops, who occupied the defiles which defended his dominions, and through which the sultan's army had great difficulty to force a passage. The losses sustained by the Druses, however, were irreparable; while the sultan's troops

were continually receiving reinforcements. At length in a final engagement Ali was slain with almost all his men. The aged Facardin, being forced to flee, concealed himself in the caverns of Mount Lebanon. A price was set on his head, but not one of his subjects was traitor enough to earn it; and the emperor, having discovered the injustice of his accusers, revoked this barbarous order, and allowed the prince of the Druses to appear again without danger. The latter, having collected the treasures which he had buried, proceeded to Constantinople. Amurat, desirous of a more particular acquaintance with this prince, concerning whom he had heard many extraordinary things, went to meet

him, giving himself out for a pacha of the court. The old prince of the Druses, discovering that it was the emperor himself to whom he was speaking, affected not to know him, turned the conversation to his unfortunate situation, protesting his submission and accusing his enemies of falsehood and malice. In this manner he won the good opinion of the sultan, who caused extraordinary honours to be paid him: but the mufty and the other ministers accused Facardin of being a Christian at heart, though making an outward profession of Mahometanism, and wrung from Amurat an order for his death. His son, still a boy, was brought up among the itchoglans or pages; and the

country of the Druses, being incorporated with Turkey, has been ever since governed by pachas.

Some commotions in Transylvania, occasioned by the Poles, were soon quelled; and Amurat, who was yet but twenty-four years old, having restored peace to his empire both at home and abroad, resolved to shew himself worthy of commanding his troops by whom he was feared and respected. Pretexts were not wanting for renewing the war with the Persians, a nation termed by the dyvan perfidious and usurping. The prince therefore put himself at the head of his army.

While he and his vizir were still at Seutari a civil war broke out between

the Franks of Pera and Galata. The count de Cesy had been for seventeen years ambassador from France to the Porte. Louis XIII. thought fit to recal him and to appoint in his stead the marquis de Marcheville, whose ship fell in with the Turkish fleet off Chio. The capitan-pacha having intimated that he expected the ambassador to come on board and pay his respects, the latter immediately saluted the Turkish admiral with five guns loaded with ball. The marquis, being nevertheless compelled to go on board the galley of the Musulman, threatened to demand his head of the sultan and to obtain a declaration of war against the Porte. At his audience, he assumed so high a

tone, that his drogman was commanded to be silent, while interpreting his address. On this point the marquis had refused to listen to the advice of his predecessor, for whom he conceived the strongest aversion. The count de Cesy had become surety for merchants whose affairs were embarrassed; and himself, his family and his effects were detained, till the debts for which he was answerable were discharged. Having, however, taken the precaution to obtain a decree of the French council of state, and an order from the dyvan authorizing him to seize whatever he should find belonging to the defaulters, he determined to enforce his claim against some ships which had just arrived from Pro-

vence, laden with goods, the property of the same merchants for whom he had given security. The marquis de Marcheville, on the contrary, authorized the owners to resist the claims of his predecessor, and to obtain either by fair means or by force his assent to the sale of the goods. The house of the count de Cesy was beset by the populace, from whose fury he was obliged to retire with his wife and infant son to a place of safety. The caïmacam, on receiving information of the tumult, apprized his Highness of it. The marquis de Marcheville, being proved to have instigated the commotion, was put on board a French ship, which immediately weighed anchor, and the

count de Cesy reluctantly resumed the functions of ambassador. But to return to the sultan.

This prince, on leaving Seutari, proceeded with his army against Persia. He shared the fatigues of the soldiers, prevented excesses on the march, and laid siege to Revan, which was surrendered by the governor. Amurat sullied this first success by the death of his brother Bajazet, of whom he had become jealous. The people loudly expressed their disapprobation of this atrocious deed.

The army which the sultan had left behind in Europe was unfortunate. He returned to that quarter, retrieved his affairs, and received tribute from a new

waywode of Transylvania, while his generals followed up the advantages which he had gained in Persia.

During these operations, the Cossacks reduced Azof, and the sofy, in the middle of winter, retook Revan. The plague, which broke out in Constantinople and ravaged all Anatolia, was a great impediment to Amurat's exertions. He was himself ill of the gout ; and immediately on his recovery, he again put himself at the head of his army in Persia. At the siege of Bagdad he displayed the valour of a soldier, the coolness of an experienced general, and the address of a profound politician. The governor, having accepted a bribe, delivered up the city,

but this treachery was covered with the veil of secrecy, and Amurat's glory would have been complete, had he not tarnished it by a most perfidious proceeding. The garrison desired to capitulate: the sultan promised the soldiers their lives, and the inhabitants their liberty and the preservation of their property. On Christmas day, 1638, he entered Bagdad, but before he set out on his return to Constantinople, he gave permission for the sacking of the unfortunate city. Twenty-five thousand persons of both sexes and all ages were butchered on this occasion.

The affairs of Europe demanded the emperor's attention. A quarrel had arisen between the Porte and the re-

public of Venice. The envoy of the latter was thrown into prison, and though in confinement he had the glory of concluding a treaty which prevented a war. Peace with Persia soon followed, and the empire became more and more flourishing, while the health of the sultan gradually declined. Excessive intemperance in regard to wine and strong liquors brought on dropsy, the progress of which was very rapid. Finding his end approaching, he desired to see his brother, that he might give him advice respecting his future government; but as it was feared that in one of the gusts of passion to which he was extremely subject, he might take away his life, the sultana-valydeh kept Ibra-

hym aloof from his brother's apartment.

Amurat died on the 8th of February, 1640, at the age of thirty-one years, after a more glorious reign of seventeen than could reasonably have been expected. Fine talents were conspicuous among this vices. Nature had endowed him with great activity and acute discernment. He knew how to reward, to punish, and to guide the reins of government himself. In short, he would have been one of the best emperors of the Turks, had not the state of intoxication into which he was too frequently plunged, caused him to disgrace himself by the commission of injustice and cruelty.

IBRAHYM.

EIGHTEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1640—1648.

This prince, of a weak constitution and a timid disposition, had become still more fearful after Amurat put to death his brother Bajazet. When he was sent for to be placed upon the throne, he imagined that his last hour had arrived, and mistook the acclamations of joy for shouts of uproar. He displayed so little firmness and dignity during the ceremony of his inauguration, that the people thence deduced an unfavourable omen for his reign. Re-

leased from a severe captivity, this prince immediately plunged into voluptuousness and debauchery, relinquishing the affairs of government to his vizir and the sultana-valydeh, who overheard, unseen, the deliberations of the dyvan. Immoderate indulgence in pleasures of which Ibrahym had been so long deprived, reduced him to a state of such languor, that apprehensions began to be entertained that the race of Othman would become extinct with him, when one of his women gave birth to a son. The public joy was heightened by the intelligence of the recovery of Azof, which the Cossacks abandoned after destroying its fortifications.

The empire appeared flourishing, but its chief was not respected, and his ministers were divided. Under such a sovereign, the most trivial causes were likely to produce important events. The intrigues of the seraglio had an influence upon the government of the whole empire. The qyzlar-agma, the chief of the black eunuchs and superintendent over the women of the seraglio, occasioned the celebrated war of Candia. This officer, to gratify a luxury equally useless and cruel, had a great number of women in his harem. He purchased one, who, being pregnant, produced a son. This female was selected for the nurse of the young prince Mehemet. The emperor conceived a strong attach-

ment for her and her child, who was called the son of the qyzlar-agma. The favourite sultana having obliged the feeble monarch to remove the objects of her jealousy from his court, that officer solicited permission to perform a pilgrimage to Mecca with his reputed family. He travelled with such pomp, that the people concluded it must be a sultana and a son of Ibrahim's, whom he was sending to Mecca; and the presence of the chief officer of the seraglio gave plausibility to the rumour. He embarked for Alexandria with a squadron, which, on entering the Archipelago, was overtaken by a tempest and obliged to bear away for Rhodes. The news of the appearance of so rich

a prize having reached Malta, the galleys of the order were dispatched to intercept the squadron bound to Alexandria. They fell in with it; a bloody conflict ensued, in which the eunuch was slain, and the knights took the squadron which he commanded. After touching at Candia to refit, they returned in triumph to Malta, persuaded that they had a son of the Turkish emperor in their power. The report spread and was believed by all Europe. The child was treated with the honours that were thought to be due to the son of a great sovereign. The truth however was soon known, and the supposed prince in the sequel quitted Malta, where the knights were not anxious to

detain him. He dragged on a wretched existence in various countries, and at length turned monk at Rome by the name of father Othman.

The rage of Ibrahym, on receiving the intelligence of the capture of the adopted son of the qyzlar-agma, was sufficient to authorise the belief that the Maltese had really taken a child of his own. He swore to destroy that haunt of pirates, and reproached the Venitian ambassador in the harshest terms, because his republic had harboured them in the island of Candia. The dyvan made immense preparations, which were supposed to be intended against Malta, but were secretly destined for the attack of the island of Candia.

A formidable fleet, commanded by Yusuf, the capitan-pacha, set sail in 1645, and touched at the Venitian islands, without exciting any suspicions. On reaching Candia, there was nothing to prevent the Turkish troops from landing and laying siege to Canea, which was incapable of making a long resistance, any more than Retino, the governor of which was slain in the breach. The Venitians, who had now nothing left but the city of Candia, implored the aid of the Christian princes, but could not obtain any, because each power laid claim to the honour of the flag. The grand-signor sent at the same time an army into Dalmatia, to attack his enemies in a different quarter ;

but his land forces were less successful than his fleet.

The sultan, more engrossed by the concerns of his family than those of government, married his daughter, scarcely four years of age to Yusuf, the capitan-pacha, who was immensely rich. Ibrahim, accustomed to consider the wealth of all his subjects as belonging to himself, determined to secure Yusuf's property for his daughter, and soon caused him to be strangled upon some slight pretext. The pacha was beloved by the troops, who mutinied, and exclaimed loudly against a prince equally blood-thirsty and effeminate. Some nocturnal executions imposed silence on the malcontents: and Ibra-

hym dismissed all thoughts of public affairs from his mind. He had young and beautiful slaves brought at a great expense from the remotest provinces of his empire, and filled his harem without satisfying his desires. One of his emissaries having spoken in high terms of the beauty of the mufty's daughter, he demanded her of her father, and on his refusal caused her to be carried off while going to the bath attended only by a few women. She was dragged to the harem, where she was violated by the cruel Ibrahim, and then sent back to her father. The mufty cherished in his heart the strongest resentment of this outrage, and resolved to revenge himself on the first

occasion, which was not long before it occurred.

The executions ordered by Ibrahim at first struck terror into the janissaries, but soon excited their indignation. The mufty heard their murmurs and did not fail to encourage them : he assembled all the mollas, and the officers of the janissaries and spahys, in the mosque called Ortah Djami. The emperor sent the bostandjy-bachy and the capydjy-bachy to disperse the assembly ; they were admitted into the mosque, and the mufty delivered to them a fetva, proscribing the grand-vizir, whose head they required before they separated. The sultan's officers returned to him with this answer. Ibrahim refused to

comply with the demands of the malcontents, on which the mufty appointed another vizir, and sent him with all the effendys and officers to the seraglio, into which they were introduced ; but Ibrahym fell furiously upon the new minister, and the deputies, having reseued him from the sultan's rage, withdrew in disorder from the palæe. The people then cried out that the sultan himself must be deposed. The janissaries secured all the gates of the city ; the troops at night surrounded the seraglio ; the old vizir was brought forth, declared a traitor and put to death. Next day another meeting was held in the mosque of St. Sophia. The mufty addressed the assembly and painted in strong co-

lours the misfortunes of the empire, and the vices, depredations, cruelty and incapacity of its ruler. The new grand-vizir proposed the issuing of a fetva, requiring the emperor to appear before his people and to account to them for his conduct. The fetva was carried to Ibrahim, who tore it in pieces, and threatened to make an example of the mufty; but when the agha of the janisaries represented to him, that the life of his Highness was in much more imminent danger than that of the head of the Mahometan religion, his rage was suddenly changed to fear. He implored but in vain the aid of the officers around him, and fled for protection to the apartments of his women. He was

brought forth and conducted before his judges. The mufty loaded the violator of his daughter with reproaches. It was agreed that the sultan's life should be spared; he was therefore thrown with some old female slaves into a prison, the doors and windows of which were walled up, and in which a single aperture only was left for the introduction of food. The public cryers immediately published in the capital the accession of Mahomet IV. who was but seven years of age. The seraglio meanwhile resounded with the cries of the deposed monarch, who called down the vengeance of heaven upon his oppressors, and implored the assistance of those whom he had loaded with favours. The

implacable mufty, apprehensive lest pity might become dangerous, resolved to stifle appeals capable of awakening gratitude and exciting remorse; he, therefore, ordered the sultan to be strangled. Thus perished this prince, on the 28th of July, 1649, at the age of thirty-one years, and a disgraceful reign of nine, which afforded occasion to apprehend the downfall of the Ottoman empire.

MAHOMET IV.

NINETEENTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1649—1687.

The troops learned with horror that they had been made instrumental to a murder which they would fain have prevented. The mufty had the art to throw all the blame on the vizir, who was punished for it. Synan-pacha was appointed in his stead; but he was disliked by the sultana, Kieuzel, who gained over the agha of the janisseries and concerted with him the deposition of Mahomet IV. and the elevation of Soleïman, the younger brother

of that prince, to the throne. The politic mufty resolved to espouse the cause of the stronger party, and awaited the event, certain that he should be made the umpire of the quarrel. The agha of the janissaries collected troops, and Synan, the vizir, being surprised at night and obliged to attend this meeting, affected to enter into the views of the rebels. Upon pretext of convoking the dyvan, he demanded permission to repair immediately to the seraglio, the gates of which he found shut: he ordered them to be again elosed after him, and employed the rest of the night in barricading himself there, and in arming the troops and all the persons belonging to the household of

the sultan. By his command the young sultana-valydeh was awakened, and conducted to the chamber of her son who was still a child. The murmurs raised through the whole seraglio in spite of the endeavours of those who wished to stifle them, the light of torches, the alarm expressed in every countenance, and the imminent danger which all these things bespoke, filled the young sultana with terror, and mingling her tears with those of her son, she incessantly exclaimed: "O my child, it is all over with us." The emperor of the East, whose ordinary titles are *Lightning of Heaven and Terror of the World*, hid his face in his mother's bosom, and seizing the hands of the

grand-vizir, cried: "Save us, father, save us." Synan did his best to cheer them up, and ordered the throne of the young emperor to be placed in such a manner as to be exposed to the view of those whose duty it was to defend it. The prince, in walking to the spot where the throne was raised, saw the bodies of the bostandjy-bachy and the qyzlar of Kieuzel, who had been strangled, extended on the ground. This spectacle increased the terror of the child, which was at its height when the baltahdjys put to death in his presence a white eunuch, master to the chamber to Kieuzel. The blood of this unfortunate man, who had fallen at the foot of the throne, sprinkled the infant

emperor, who, unable to support the horrible sight, sought refuge in the arms of the grand-vizir. Some of the itchoghians perceiving a veiled female behind the gauze that covered the *dangerous window*, from which the sultan can observe every thing without being himself seen, imagined that it was the sultana Kieuzel, and insisted that she should be secured. The affrighted woman, forgetting the laws of the seraglio, immediately drew back the gauze curtain, threw aside her veil and showing her face bathed in tears: "I am not Kieuzel," cried she, "but the real sultana-valydeh, the mother of his Highness:" then descending in haste she rushed through the crowd and ran

to embrace the knees of her son. The vizir presented young Mahomet to his future defenders, and made them take the oath of allegiance to him. The mufty declared by a fetva that the sultana Kieuzel must die. A decree, drawn up by the vizir and signed with a trembling hand by the young emperor, purported that she should be strangled, but that her body should neither be bruised with blows nor cut with the sword. This sentence was delivered to the itehoghians, who repaired to Kieuzel's apartments, and passed through several rooms without finding her. Their search was long and would probably have proved vain, had not a dely-doghandjy, or falconer, taken it

into his head to rummage in a very large chest, apparently full of clothes. There he found the sultana, and dragged her violently from this confined retreat. The unfortunate princess offered to no purpose a handkerchief full of sequins to the man who had discovered her ; to no purpose did she throw the money out of the handkerchief about the floor, in hopes that while the murderers were picking up the pieces of gold she should have an opportunity of escaping. Her scheme was unsuccessful. The dely-doghandjy knocked her down. Her ear-pendants, diamonds, rings and bracelets, were torn from her person ; her rich robes were rent in a thousand pieces ; and

notwithstanding the injunction which they had received to respect the body of their master's grandmother, the itehogh-lans dragged her stark naked by the legs out of the harem, to the gate called the Birds' Gate. There she was strangled with great difficulty, as none of her executioners had been accustomed to perform the cruel office. Her partisans were afterwards put to death. At day-break Syuan led his troops out of the seraglio and ranged them round the sacred standard of Mahomet. The janissaries thronged to the spot, and the fetva of the mufty, declaring all those rebels who should refuse to join the revered banner, was thrown among them. Syuan's boldness was attended

with a success equal to the most sanguine expectation. The janissaries deserted their agha and his supporters, who were put to death, and order was restored. The vizir, who had rendered his master such essential service, met with a fate that he did not merit. The relatives of those whom he had sacrificed to the welfare of the state having met with him one evening almost unaccompanied, stabbed him and had time to escape without molestation.

The first years of Mahomet's reign were marked by all the disorders that might be expected in a state without a master. In the course of seven years, six vizirs were deposed or strangled; pachas rebelled and the spahys and

janissaries cut one another's throats for the sake of the property of the chiefs whom they had proscribed. The Turkish fleet was several times beaten by that of the Venitians, who, however, had not the promptitude to follow up their advantages and drive their enemies out of Candia.

Meanwhile the sultana-valydeh quietly educated the young emperor in the recesses of the seraglio; and in concert with the dyvan she at length chose the aged Mehemet Kiuperly, who had always been beloved and respected by all parties, for grand-vizir. This wise minister devoted his attention to the re-establishment of internal tranquillity and the means of ensuring

prosperity to the arms of the empire. He began by separating the spahys from the janissaries, as the association of those two bodies tended only to perpetuate discord, and dispersed the former in the provinces. The Venetians were victorious in Bosnia, where they had driven back the Ottomans to Saraï, the capital of that province. Kiuperly was content to keep them in check in that quarter, and sent more considerable reinforcements to the army in Candia. Moncenigo, the admiral of the republic, after defeating the Ottoman fleet, took, in 1659, the islands of Tenedos and Lemnos. The Venetians then made overtures for peace; but Kiuperly would not listen to any

accommodation, unless they would evacuate the island of Candia. In a subsequent naval engagement, Moncigno was slain, and this irreparable loss to the Venitians opened all the seas to the Turks, and Tenedos and Lemnos soon fell again into the possession of the Porte.

When the emperor had attained the age of fourteen years, Kiuperly thought it time to show him to the troops; he therefore took him to Adrianople, then the general rendezvous of the army. Meanwhile the pacha of Aleppo hoisted the standard of rebellion, and gave out that a son of Amurat IV. proscribed by Ibrahim, had been concealed by his mother and saved from

the researches of his executioners. This pretended prince was twenty years of age. The love of novelty soon collected an army round this impostor, who assumed the insignia of royalty. Mahomet's troops proceeded towards Smyrna; those of the usurper advanced by forced marches. Kiuperly, conceiving them not so strong as they really were, sent against them only ten thousand men, who were beaten; he then went to meet them himself with the main army. The battle was fought in the presence of the young emperor; the rebels were dispersed and the pacha of Aleppo, as well as the spurious sultan, being taken in their flight, were condemned and put to death.

Comotions having broken out in Transylvania, Kiuperly prepared to lead a powerful force into that country, when death overtook him at Adrianople, where he had persuaded his master to fix his residence. The young prince, sensible how serviceable Kiuperly had been to his authority, in 1661 appointed his son Aehmet Kiuperly to the post of grand-vizir as much from choice as gratitude. By a judicious mixture of mildness and severity, this minister caused himself to be as much respected as his father had been before him.

The troubles in Transylvania continued. The emperors of the east and west each of them appointed several waywodes to govern that country, and

the two powers, being unable to adjust their differences by a treaty, prepared for war. The Ottoman armies approached the frontiers of Hungary ; but the emperor of Germany sent for the defence of that country the celebrated Montecuculli, whose experience and resources were of more value than a numerous army. The great object of this able general was to conceal from the enemy the small number of his troops, which he had distributed along the Danube to defend the passage of the river, and which he seemed to multiply by marches and counter-marches. Kiuperly commenced operations with the siege of Neuhausel, which he took on the 27th of September 1663. He

then divided his cavalry, composed of spahys and tymariots into several detachments, and sent them to ravage the Austrian dominions to the very gates of Presburg, and Vienna. Levents, Novigrad and Nitra surrendered almost without resistance, and the grand-vizir was foiled only before the fortress of Seinta. Consternation pervaded Vienna. The representations of the emperor Leopold to the diet procured him some troops from the eircles ; but there was no harmony among the different corps ; and till Monteeuulli took the command of this army it was without confidence and without discipline. That general, apprized by his spies of every motion of the Turks, removed his head-quarters

towards St. Gothard, and from that point covered alike both Styria and Austria. Kiuperly, having already attempted in vain the passage of the Raab, far out of sight of the hostile army, found that he could not accomplish his purpose but by open force. On the 1st of August, 1664, the Austrians encamped on the opposite side of the river suffered fifteen thousand Turks to cross and then charged them with fury. The janissaries and spahys threw themselves into the river to hasten to the assistance of their comrades; their valour long rendered victory doubtful, but it was at length won by the efforts of the Austrians and above all by the talents of their general. The

loss of the Turks amounted to twenty-one thousand men, while that of the Imperialists was estimated at only four thousand. The sultan was the more keenly mortified by this defeat, as he had calculated upon a victory, and, on the assurance he had received from Kiuperly, had given directions for magnificent rejoicings which were turned to mourning. The consternation extended to the dyvan, which advised the speedy conclusion of peace.

Montecuculli, following up his victory, was pursuing the Turks in their retreat, when he received orders to suspend hostilities, and was informed that the Porte had made proposals for peace. A treaty was actually nego-

tiated, on conditions that were hard for the Hungarians alone. The defeat which Kiuperly had sustained occasioned no diminution of his influence, since the treaty was advantageous to the Ottomans, who retained some of their conquests.

The war in Candia still continued, though the Turks, after being for twenty years in possession of Canea and Retino, had made no farther progress. Kiuperly directed his views towards the reduction of Candia, the capital of the island. The Venitians had made such additions to the fortifications of that city, that the harbour was absolutely inaccessible. They had drawn together for the defence of the place a

great number of volunteers of all nations, and French gentlemen in particular. The war in Candia has been compared with the Trojan war; it resembled the latter in its duration and in the briskness of the last siege, which continued upwards of two years, and was one of the most bloody recorded in history. Military engineering was there carried to a high pitch of perfection, and all the efforts of the Turks failed against the improved art of defence. One hundred and ten thousand men had already perished before this fortress; but the Turkish army was incessantly receiving fresh reinforcements, while the irreparable losses of the Christians amounted to thirty-one

thousand. Louis XIV. had promised farther succours in men and money, which had even sailed from Toulon, when a Greek, drogman to the Porte, invented a falsehood most calumnious to France, to induce the Venitians to capitulate. This treacherous Greek declared, that he had seen a letter from the French minister, in which Louis XIV. promised to join the Porte ; adding, that the expected succours were destined to strengthen the Ottoman fleet. Accordingly, the following day, six vessels under French colours were seen entering the harbour of the Turks. These ships were French, only in appearance, and had been detached the preceding night from the Turkish squadron. Consternation did not the

less pervade the feeble remnant of the defenders of Candia; and the grand-vizir having offered Morosini, the governor, an honourable capitulation, that officer deemed it prudent to accept it, on the 16th of September, 1669. The prisoners were liberated on both sides, and the Venitians evacuated Candia, leaving to the conquerors the ruins of a city without inhabitants.

The news of this important capture, which terminated the war, filled the whole Ottoman empire with exultation. Great rejoicings were made and Kiuperly, after adopting measures for re-peopling the ruined city, returned to Adrianople, where he was hailed with universal acclamations.

Mahomet received about this time an

embassy highly honourable to the Porte. The Cossacks of the Ukraine, vassals of Poland, and smarting under its yoke, solicited the protection of the emperor of the east. A fetva of the mufty declared it lawful to attack Poland, unless that power should grant a durable peace to the Cossacks, the allies of Turkey. The emperor set out in person at the head of a powerful army, marched through Transylvania and Wallachia, crossed the Dniester and entered Podolia, where Kiuperly resolved to lay siege to Kaminieck, the capital of the province.

Poland was at this juncture distracted by civil broils; Michael and Sobieski contended for the crown. The latter opposed an army of Tartars which, in

concert with the Ottomans, were ravaging the country. He defeated them several times, but could not prevent Kaminieck, one of the strongest fortresses in Europe, from falling into the hands of Mahomet, on the 22d of August, 1672. Kiuperly then advanced towards Leopoldstadt, which made but a feeble resistance. King Michael, trembling in Lublin, where he had shut himself up, was jealous of Sobieski's victories, and unwilling that the country should owe its salvation to him. The loss of Leopoldstadt induced him to listen to the proposals of the Turks, and he concluded a hasty peace. The indignant Sobieski exclaimed against this infamous treaty, which he regarded as null and void, and advanced toward

Khoczim, on the right bank of the Dniester, where the enemy had fortified themselves. He attacked them, destroyed a bridge to intercept their retreat, penetrated into their camp, through which he spread dismay, and drove them from it. The Turks lost great numbers in crossing the river, and retired in disorder towards Kaminieck. Sobieski summoned the citadel of Khoczim to surrender, and allowed the garrison to march out with the honours of war. This able general was then advancing at the head of his victorious army, when he received intelligence of Michael's death. This event saved Kaminieck. Sobieski, being called away to Warsaw on more important

business, was elevated to the throne of Poland, which he had so valiantly defended.

Kiuperly knew too well with whom he had to deal not to reinforce his army. He ordered the Tartars to march towards the Ukraine, and selected from among the janissaries twelve thousand *serdengielehdis* (men devoted to death) corresponding with what was formerly called the *forlorn hope* in the European armies. This corps was destined for the most perilous enterprises. The new king of Poland, being deserted by the Lithuanians, was obliged to go into winter-quarters, and the operations were suspended on both sides.

The sultan was meanwhile indulging

at Adrianople in the display of all the profusion of eastern magnificence, on occasion of the marriage of his daughter and the circumcision of two of his sons. The festivities were interrupted by an event which the whole empire had reason to deplore. At the moment of recommencing hostilities in 1678, Kiuperly was attacked by a violent and mortal disease, in the forty-seventh year of his age, after he had governed fifteen years with equal wisdom and success. A longer administration might perhaps have changed the manners of this people, to whom he set an example of virtue.

Carah-Mustapha, his brother-in-law, who had served under him, was appointed his successor. The war in Po-

land was prosecuted with less vigour, and Sobieski, though he had but a small number of troops, kept in check the whole Ottoman force. At length, confined in his camp, in which want began to be felt, the king of Poland, who returned no other reply to repeated summonses than—*Conquer or die*—thought of cutting his way through the enemy's army; and he would have accomplished his design, had not the Turkish general received orders to put an end to the war, in which the European powers threatened to take part. Sobieski concluded peace on honourable and advantageous conditions. It took but a few days to adjust the terms between the two nations, and upwards of six months

to settle the ceremonies to be observed in regard to the ambassador who brought the ratification of the treaty.

Carah-Mustapha possessed the same power, but not equal talents with his predecessor. His intolerable pride and his severity alienated the minds of the Cossacks, who had recently become vassals of the Porte. They now placed themselves under the protection of Russia. The Turks were beaten in several rencounters by the Russians and Cossacks. In another quarter, the Hungarians loudly summoned the Turks to their aid against the emperor of Germany, who treated them as rebels and infringed their privileges. They were headed by the young count Tekeli. The

dyvan opposed the design of declaring war against Austria. Carah-Mustapha nevertheless prevailed upon his master to adopt that measure, and dispatched succours to Tekeli. The vizir, having gained an accession of power by his marriage with one of the emperor's daughters, set out in 1683 for Adrianople, where the army was assembling. It consisted of Tartars, Wallachians, Moldavians and Hungarians, and amounted to one hundred and eighty thousand, or according to some historians, two hundred thousand men. It first marched toward Belgrade, and after passing the Saave, a council was held. Carah-Mustapha was for proceeding directly to the Austrian capital :

Tekeli opposed that plan; and they were marching towards Raab, when news arrived that the imperial family had quitted Vienna. It was then decided that they should lay siege to that capital.

The duke of Lorraine, the emperor's brother-in-law, commanded the Austrian army, which was then engaged in the siege of Gran, a fortress designed for a bulwark to Germany. That prince had time to throw into Vienna eight thousand men under the command of count Starhemberg, while he himself encamped with his troops in the island of Leopoldstadt: but this prudent general, fearful of being shut up in the island, quitted it the day before

the arrival of the Turks, broke down the bridges, and chose a more advantageous camp at some distance from the city, where he waited for the reinforcements which he expected from Poland, Bavaria, and Saxony, while a corps, which he had detached from his army, defeated count Tekeli in Hungary.

The siege of Vienna was opened : the fire of the batteries did great damage to the ramparts ; but the duke of Lorraine continually sent out detachments which harassed the enemy and destroyed their works. The siege was protracted through the fault of the grand-vizir ; and this gave Sobieski time to arrive with the Bavarian and Saxon contingents, and the besieged were

informed by signals that they should soon be relieved. Sobieski immediately prepared to give battle to the Turks. Accompanied by the duke of Lorraine, he crossed with his artillery a chain of mountains which separated him from the rich Turkish camp pitched in the plain before Vienna, and fell unawares upon the advanced posts of the Ottomans. The duke of Lorraine broke the enemy's left wing and put it to flight. The spahys, with the vizir at their head, long maintained their ground, but were finally borne down by the torrent of the fugitives, and Sobieski completed the rout which he had begun. He marched his army in good order to the trenches which surrounded the city,

made himself master of them, and Vienna was delivered on the 11th of September, 1683. The Turkish camp, being given up to the soldiers, yielded them an immense booty. Count Starhemberg came out at the head of the garrison of Vienna, to thank their deliverers, and Sobieski triumphantly entered the city by the breach which the Turks had not dared to scale.

The fugitives reassembled in the camp which they had left near Raab. Sobieski pursued them, but he learned that an enemy, though beaten, is not always to be despised: the Turks charged him vigorously when he least expected it, threw his troops into confusion, and the king himself was in

danger of losing his life or his liberty. Fortunately the duke of Lorraine came up to his assistance, and the Ottomans had the prudence not to risk the fruit of their victory. Sobieski soon had his revenge; he drove the enemy into the Danube, and took Gran and Cestlin. The grand-vizir found himself necessitated to fall back to Belgrade.

When these disasters and the immense losses which reduced so mighty an army to less than half were known in Constantinople, the utmost consternation prevailed. Carah-Mustapha attempted to justify his conduct; but the dyvan and the whole body of the ulemas, as well as the janissaries, were vehement against him; and the emperor, not-

withstanding his attachment to this minister, was constrained to affix his khatty-cheryf to the sentence which doomed him to perish by the bow-string. Two persons only, the tchaouch-bachy and the capydjy-kihaya (the chief officer and lieutenant of the guard of the interior of the seraglio) were charged with its execution. They went and demanded the head of the most absolute minister of the empire, who still had the command of eighty thousand men, accustomed to tremble in his presence. But Carah-Mustapha was feared only, and the troops rejoiced at the arrival of these officers. The vizir received with firmness the order to resign the seals ; but he could not read his condemnation

without accusing his sovereign of ingratitude, and uttering imprecations against fortune. Sensible, however, that resistance would be fruitless, he ejaculated a short prayer, and put the fatal cord round his neck with his own hands. His head was carried to Constantinople, and exposed to the view of the people and of the soldiery, who were appeased by this sight. Several great officers refused the post of vizir. The caïmacam at length tremblingly accepted it, and sought means to withstand the enemies of the empire, but he was not successful, and the Turks by their arrogance brought fresh foes upon themselves. The republic of Venice declared war against them. The Ottoman fleet was in a

wretched state ; that of the Venitians, under the same Morosini who had defended Candia, reduced St. Maura, and placed a garrison in Prevesa, which commands the entrance of the gulf of Arta.

The empire was attacked on all sides. The duke of Lorraine, at the very outset of the campaign, took Vingrade. He offered an amnesty to all the Hungarians who should abandon Tekeli. Several nobles in consequence renewed their allegiance to the house of Austria. Tekeli marched against them, and the country suffered equally from both parties. The duke of Lorraine, marching towards Buda, received a momentary check from the Turks. They made

head at the same time against Sobieski, whose object was to possess himself of Kaminiiek ; but they were soon afterwards beaten, and Tekeli, being accused of treason against the Porte, was secured, loaded with chains, and sent to the castle of the Seven Towers at Constantinople.

The Turks had no better luck against the republic of Venice, which had formed an alliance with the Morlaehians in Dalmatia and the Mainots in the Morea, who had shaken off the yoke of the Porte. The people of the capital were thunderstruck on receiving this unfavourable intelligence. The vizir was deposed ; the capitán-pacha atoned for his defeats with his life, and count

Tekeli was liberated. Peace was earnestly desired, but the negotiations were not successful. General discontent prevailed; the sultan was charged with effeminacy, debauchery, and disregard of the interests of the empire.

The campaign of 1687 was as disastrous as the preceding. Morosini took Patras, Lepanto, Misitra, Corinth, and Athens, and reduced the whole of Attica. Cornaro, another Venitian general, was victorious in Dalmatia; he penetrated into Bosnia and took Castel Nuovo, the strongest place in that country. The Poles gained ground on their side; they reduced Slavonia and Transylvania. The Turkish army at length revolted: Mahomet tottered

on his throne: he nevertheless made reforms in his harem and removed the mufty, who had authorised by his fetva the war in Germany. The army, the seraglio, and the city, were exasperated against the emperor. Mahomet now hoped by means of a crime which he had previously several times contemplated to ensure his authority. He gave orders for the death of his brothers; but Kiuperly, the caïmacam, son and grandson of the two grand-vizirs who had shed such glory on the commencement of Mahomet's reign, and the hostandjy-bachi, to whom the execution of these orders was delegated, not only refused to comply, but even provided for the safety of those princes.

Meanwhile the army, having arrived at Constantinople, secured the different gates of the city and the port. The attempt made by Mahomet, excited the public indignation, and on the 9th of November, 1687, deputies were sent to the sultan to inform him of his deposition. They then proceeded to the apartments of prince Solcïman, aged forty-six years, who affected a reluctance to accept the proffered sovereignty. In spite of his refusal, he was invested with the insignia of royalty and conducted to the dyvan, where the chief officers of the empire took the oath of allegiance to him. The dethroned prince was shut up in the prison which his brother had just quit-

ted; in this rigorous captivity he passed five years, and ceased to live or rather to vegetate, in the month of January, 1693.

SOLEIMAN II.

TWENTIETH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1687—1691.

The janissaries seemed to have assented to the elevation of Soleïman to the throne, merely that they might indulge in all those excesses which they knew this emperor would be too weak to repress. Dissatisfied with the vizir, who was preparing to reduce them to their duty, they attacked him in his palae, where, after a long defence, he was obliged to yield to numbers : his residence was pillaged and the seclusion of the harem violated. The people,

incensed against barbarians who transgressed all the laws of the Koran and of modesty, fell furiously upon the janissaries, and made a great carnage among them, which could not be stopped but by unfurling the standard of the Prophet.

Since the deposition of Mahomet, affairs had gone on worse and worse in Hungary. The emperor Leopold had caused his son to be proclaimed hereditary king of that country. The Imperialists made themselves masters of the strong places; the duke of Bavaria took Agria, on the 28th of November, 1687, and reduced Belgrade, after a long siege, on the 6th of September, 1688. At the same time the Venitians

pushed their conquests in Dalmatia. Poland alone made no progress. The dyvan therefore concluded it to be high time to make peace.

Maurocordato, a Greek, interpreter to the Porte and a man of great address, was sent to propose a suspension of arms to the Germans, but as this negotiation failed, the grand-signor issued orders for public prayers; he even expressed a desire to put himself at the head of the troops. It was not long, however, before this timid prince changed his mind, and sent in his stead the seraskier Rejeb, who had formerly desolated Asia as a chief of banditti, and knew nothing of the military profession. He sustained in consequence.

several defeats, and on his return he was strangled, because, contrary to the law of Mahomet, he had consulted a magician.

The Mainots meanwhile revolted against the Venitians, and returned to their allegiance to the Turkish emperor. At length the third Kiuperly, who had preserved Soleïman's life, before his accession to the throne, was elevated to the post of vizir. This minister, inheriting the talents of his father and grandfather, won the confidence of the people, restored order in the finances, eradicated great abuses, administered justice without respect of persons, protected the different religions, and ordered even the erection of a

church in a village inhabited exclusively by Greek Christians; and by these means afforded general satisfaction. The dyvan was desirous of peace; Kiuperly ventured to promise it victory. His first campaign was as glorious as that which preceeded it had been calamitous. The janissaries, recovering their ancient valour, retook Belgrade and several other towns in 1689, and gained a signal victory over the Germans, near Essek, the siege of which it was nevertheless found necessary to raise, on account of the approach of winter. Kiuperly was received at Constantinople with all the honours of a triumph. The infirmities of the sultan, degenerating into dropsy, prevented the grand-vizir from

returning in the spring to Hungary, according to his intention. Proposals were privately circulated for placing on the throne one of the sons of Mahomet IV. Kiuperly advocated the rights of Achmet, the emperor's brother, the eldest of all the princes of the house of Othman. The firmness of this minister disconcerted the intrigue, and on the death of Soleïman, which happened on the 22d of June, 1691, not an individual durst raise his voice in behalf of Mahomet who was still a captive, or his children.

It was the fortune of Kiuperly to govern the Turks under imbecile princes. If Soleïman, wholly engaged in meditation and in the practice of the precepts

of the Koran, could not be classed among great monarchs, he was however regarded by his subjects as a saint, and they even went so far as to attribute miracles to him. He reigned three years and nine months.

ACHMET (AHHMED) II.

TWENTY-FIRST EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1691—1695.

The new emperor, as incapable of governing as his predecessors, had more humanity than they. The first thing he did was to visit his brother Mahomet IV. in prison, where he cheered him and sent several slaves for his amusement.

While Kiuperly was intent on promoting the public welfare, envy conspired the downfall of that minister. The officers of the seraglio, whom he held in dependence, represented him as a

rebel and a usurper to the feeble monarch, whose destruction also they had secretly determined upon. The minister, informed of the scheme by a mute, immediately assembled the principal officers of the different corps, and communicated to them the intelligence he had received. They were all filled with indignation; the troops ran to arms, surrounded the seraglio, and demanded the heads of Kiuperly's enemies, which they obtained without difficulty of the imbeeile sultan.

The success of the late campaign had revived the courage of the Ottomans, who considered themselves as invincible under the vizir. He arrived at Belgrade with one hundred thousand men,

and learned that the prince of Baden was below Peterwaradin, with an army little inferior in number to his own. He crossed the Saave, hastened to meet the enemy, and defeated his advanced posts : but no sooner had the two main armies engaged, on the 19th of August, 1691, than Kiuperly, struck by a ball in the temple, fell from his horse, and though all possible assistanee was rendered, no sign of life could be discovered in him. This event spread consternation and terror among the Turks : they fell into confusion and were completely routed. They left thirty thousand slain on the field of battle, and never rallied till they reached Belgrade, under the

walls of which they formed an entrenched camp.

A general peace was now expected. Maurocordato, bribed by France, insisted that Austria, drained of troops and money, was incapable of prosecuting the war much longer, and that it would therefore be wise to wait till she was reduced to the necessity of soliciting a disadvantageous peace.

The ensuing campaign was by no means brisk. The Venitians made vain attempts to recover the island of Candia. Several vizirs were successively appointed and removed. The Porte was dispirited, when a circumstance, in itself of little importance, but which now occurred for the first time in the Otto-

man house, was considered as the fore-runner of some great victory : a sultana was delivered of twin princes. The death of Mahomet IV. brother of the sultan, did not interrupt the rejoicings occasioned by this event. No better success, however, attended the Ottoman arms. The Poles defeated the Turks united with the Tartars of the Crimea ; and the Venitians took Chio and two towns in Dalmatia. The pachas of Asia had to oppose the sheryf of Mecca, who plundered the caravans of pilgrims and compelled them to pay him a kind of tribute. Such was the state of affairs when the sultan died on the 27th of January, 1695, at the age of fifty years. He had reigned but four ; that is, if to

reign be to yield to every impulse, to suffer good or ill to be done indiscriminately, and to view with the same indifference success and disasters, in which the utter imbecility of this monarch prevented his taking any part.

MUSTAPHA II.

TWENTY-SECOND EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1695—1702.

Mustapha, son of Mahomet IV. was no sooner informed of the death of his uncle, than he showed himself to the bostandjys and itchoghians, and ascended the throne as the eldest prince of the house of Othman. He summoned the great dignitaries of the empire, received from them the oath of allegiance, demanded an account of the sums in the public exchequer, and declared his intention of heading his armies in person.

This prince, thirty-three years of age, had a commanding figure and a despotic disposition. He took his father's creatures into his service, removed his mother from the old seraglio, in which she had been confined, displaced the mufty and the other unfaithful ministers, put to death the grand-vizir, and seized the wealth amassed by those officers. He made himself feared alike by the dyvan and the army, and proved that he was fond of order and had discernment enough to select men worthy of commanding. He attached to his service a Tunisian pirate, named Mezzomorto, who promised to retake Chio from the Venitians, provided he were furnished with a few ships. The sultan

complied with the proposal ; and this enterprising man defeated the Venitian fleet, actually reduced Chio, and was rewarded by Mustapha with the appointment of capitan-paeha.

Mustapha assumed the command of his troops, agreeably to his intimation, and marched to meet the German general, Frederic Augustus, elector of Saxony. He established strict discipline in his army, crossed the Danube at Belgrade, took Lippa and Titul, which he demolished, and routed a small Transylvanian force ; but this action cost him a great number of troops. He left the enemy to retreat without molestation, and returned through Wallaehia

to Adrianople, which he entered in triumph in 1696.

In the following campaign, Frederic Augustus laid siege to Temeswar. The sultan resolved to raise it or to give battle, and accomplished both purposes at once, but without pursuing his advantages. The German emperor was too fully engaged with France to act with vigour against Turkey; he therefore ordered the elector of Saxony to stand on the defensive. Peter the Great, czar of Muscovy, who had previously laid siege, but without success to Azof, took that place with the assistance of foreign engineers. This important conquest secured to the Russians the com-

merce of the Black Sea, and set bounds to the power of the Turks in that quarter.

The sultan, having learned by his own experience the indispensable necessity of discipline and tactics, endeavoured to habituate the janissaries to obey the word of command, according to the rules of the military art: but the janissaries never could learn those evolutions by means of which well-disciplined troops have won so many battles.

The peace concluded between France and the allied powers might reasonably have been expected to produce a cessation of hostilities between the Porte and Austria. Mustapha nevertheless prepared to prosecute the war. He opened

the campaign early in 1697, with a numerous army, and approached Temeswar, when news arrived that prince Eugene, who had already acquired great celebrity, was advancing to cover Segedin, Peterwaradin, and the other places situated both on the Danube and on the Teisse, which discharges itself into the former river. That prince had, however, resolved to avoid a battle as much as possible. The Turks would have been obliged to cross the Danube before they could attack Peterwaradin. The sultan having changed his plan and turned toward Segedin, on the 1st of September, 1697, prince Eugene came up with the Turkish army, near a town called Zeuta, cut in pieces the

rear-guard, struck a panic into the main army, and forced the sultan to cross the Teisse in haste by a flying bridge. Half of the Turkish army had already passed the river, when the Germans made their appearance: the Ottomans were obliged to face about; at this moment the bridge broke down and the Imperialists had to fight but a portion of the enemy's force, whose retreat was cut off. They did not allow them time to rally and charged them with such vigour and concert, that they drove them into the river. Twenty thousand Turks perished on the field of battle, and ten thousand were drowned. The grand-vizir and seventeen pachas having fallen while fighting

bravely, the seals of the empire fell into the hands of the Austrian general, together with the sultan's tent and all the rich effects which the Turks had left in their camp. Several carts were found loaded with chains and handcuffs destined for the prisoners whom the Ottomans calculated upon taking.

Mustapha himself witnessed this catastrophe. The rage which it at first excited in him was suddenly changed into terror and despair. Throwing off in the night the insignia of sovereignty, he disguised himself and fled from the camp with two attendants. He proceeded to Temeswar, where he made himself known to the sandjac, or governor of the town only, enjoining him

to keep his arrival a profound secret. Three days afterwards the Turkish army, farther diminished by the want of provisions, (the soldiers having had nothing to eat for three days) and by the fatigues of a forced march, reassembled in great confusion in the camp at Temeswar.

Notwithstanding the defeats which the emperor had sustained through his own fault, he was beloved and esteemed by the troops. They received him with strong demonstrations of joy; he put himself at their head, and after distributing the different corps in the frontier towns, he returned to Adrianople, and thence to his capital, which was plunged in despondency.

Prince Eugene meanwhile ravaged Bosnia and burned Saraï, the capital of that province, the governor of which had been slain in a sally; but the troops elected another pasha, who found means to check the progress of the Germans.

Preparations for a new campaign were making with considerable difficulty; nothing was to be heard but complaints and anticipations of future disasters. Maurocordato had the address to bring about conferences between the plenipotentiaries of Austria, Venice, Poland, and Russia. The French ambassador M. de Ferioles, endeavoured in vain to thwart the negotiations. The plenipotentiaries repaired to Carlowitz, on the 14th of November, 1698, and the

treaty was signed on the 29th of January in the ensuing year. The Turks ceded Transylvania to the emperor and agreed to a truce of twenty-five years with that prince. The truce with the czar was for two years only, and the Venitians retained part of their conquests. On the conclusion of this so much wished-for general peace, the grand-signor retired to a palace erected by Mahomet IV. between Constantino-ple and Adrianople.

Mustapha's residence at a place where his father had so long resigned himself to indolence and pleasure, excited the murmurs of the people, who loudly censured the peace purchased by the sacrifice of the finest provinces. Some

disorders in the administration caused an insurrection at Constantinople. The soldiers appointed new ministers, quitted the capital under arms, and marched toward Adrianople, where the grand-signor had taken refuge. The sultan ordered his troops to advance against the rebels ; but no sooner had the two parties met, than the former, seduced by the eloquence of the mufty, laid down their arms, and opened the gates of the city to him. The emperor's chief officers were put to death. Mustapha was necessitated to confirm the ministers appointed by the insurgents ; the more the prince conceded, the more intractable the latter became ; and the degradations to which the timid sultan

submitted to preserve his sceptre assisted only to strike it from his hand.

The emperor had no children but what were very young. His brother Achmet, the heir to the throne, according to the law, was confined at Adrianople. The mufty wrote to him that Mustapha was unworthy to reign; that the good Musulmans placed all their hopes in him; and that the general voice called him to the throne. This letter fell, as it was intended to do, into the hands of the sultan, who hastened to his brother's apartments, ceded to him all his rights and implored him to treat him with kindness.

Mustapha was deposed on the 20th of September, 1702, at the age of forty

years. The beginning of his reign excited great hopes ; but the confidence which he bestowed on perverse ministers obscured his judgment, and substituted weakness and timidity for the intelligence and courage which he had at first displayed. He died of dropsy a year after his deposition.

ACHMET III.

TWENTY-THIRD EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1702—1730.

The new emperor received the homage of the grandees and of his officers with affected kindness, bestowed large gratuities on the army; and knowing that the people had censured Mustapha for his residence at Adrianople, he resolved to return to the capital. He was thirty-six years of age; and owing to the humanity of his predecessor, his captivity had not been rigorous. In his prison he had acquired a variety of information by reading and conversation

with certain effendys, who had given him some notion of politics and taught him to dissemble with those whom he designed to punish. When he therefore regarded his power as secure, he displaced the vizir and the mufty, and proscribed all the chief actors in the late revolution. Executions struck terror into all classes, and his new ministers conceived that there was nothing which they might not attempt. The French ambassador was insulted; but he displayed such conduct and firmness, that he in some measure obliged the sultan to depose his vizir.

All Europe meanwhile envied the Turks the political repose which they enjoyed. Charles XII. king of Sweden

had just wrested the Polish sceptre from the hand of Augustus, elector of Saxony, and given it to Stanislaus Leczinski: he then threatened Peter the Great, the protector of Augustus. In another quarter the Spanish succession had armed the house of Austria against France. Prince Ragotzki, a Hungarian nobleman, married to the only daughter of count Tekeli, who was recently dead, being invited to Transylvania by a considerable party, assumed the title of prince of that country, the investiture of which he solicited from the Porte. But whatever interest the sultan might have in raising up enemies against the Austrian monarch, he refused to break the peace

which he deemed so necessary for his own dominions.

At this juncture the Ottoman empire became the retreat of two fugitive sovereigns, Charles XII. king of Sweden, and Stanislaus, whom he had placed on the throne of Poland. We cannot omit some notice of this remarkable event, which is connected with the history and manners of the Turks.

By one of those great reverses which sometimes overtake conquerors, the king of Sweden, after dethroning Augustus, king of Poland, after driving back the Russians into their own country, and replying to Peter the Great, who humbly sued for peace, that he would not treat with him but under the

walls of Moscow, lost in one day the fruit of nine years' toil and of a hundred glorious battles: he was defeated at Pultowa, a town situated at the eastern extremity of the Ukraine. His army was destroyed and his camp taken. Charles, severely wounded himself, was carried by his soldiers to the banks of the Borysthenes. He crossed the river in a boat with some of his officers. When he reached the Turkish frontiers, he was on the point of being overtaken by the enemy: he arrived however, at Bender, where he was received and treated as a king by the Turkish governor, who furnished him with the means of claiming the assistance of the grand-signor. While waiting the result of his demands,

which tended to urge the Porte into a war with Russia, the king of Sweden encamped near Bender with eighteen hundred men whom he had yet left. He ordered houses to be built for himself and his officers; the soldiers constructed huts for their own accommodation, and this camp assumed the appearance of a little town. Charles XII. on recovering from his wound, rode out on horseback, exercised his troops and frequently played at chess, the only game that reminded him of the combinations of war. People thronged from Constantinople to see him, and he was respected by both Turks and Tartars.

The influence and money of the czar,

however, were more powerful with the Porte than the solicitations of the royal fugitive. Charles found himself deceived, slighted by the sultan, and almost a prisoner among the Tartars ; his followers began to despair of his fortunes ; he alone retained his firmness and never manifested a moment's dejection. It was proposed to him to return home through Germany, or to avail himself of the ships offered by the French ambassador to convey him to Marseilles ; but, persuaded that he should finally prevail on the Ottoman emperor to declare against the czar, Charles rejected all proposals for a peaceable return to his dominions. His party gained for a short time the

ascendancy over the intrigues which his rival's gold had fomented in the seraglio. The sultan resolved to declare war against Russia, and ordered the grand-vizir to raise two hundred thousand men. The khan of the Crimea furnished forty thousand of the number, and this army was to assemble under Charles's inspection at Bender; but, in consequence of a fresh intrigue of the vizir, the place of rendezvous was changed to Adrianople, and the minister, jealous of the command, marched in haste toward the Danube and Bessarabia. The czar was likely, according to all appearance, to be more than a match for the Turks; but he was guilty of the same fault as the king of Sweden

had committed when opposed to him, he had too much contempt for his enemy, whom he suffered to cross the river and to encamp on its banks ; then perceiving that he was himself encompassed on all sides, he became sensible of his error, and burned part of his baggage to prevent its falling into the hands of his foes. The army was dispirited, and had no other prospect than death or slavery, when the empress Catherine, who had accompanied her consort to the camp, persuaded him to solicit peace ; and collecting her jewels and all the most valuable effects she had with her, she sent them to the lieutenant of the vizir, who agreed to treat, and considered that he was con-

sulting his master's interest by concluding an advantageous peace. He required in fact that the Moscovites should restore Azof, burn their ships, demolish the forts erected on the Palus Mæotis, and withdraw their troops from Poland. The king of Sweden was overlooked in this treaty: a supplementary article merely bound the czar not to obstruct the return of that prince to his dominions. On these conditions the Russian monarch had liberty to retire with all the honours of war, and he lost no time to avail himself of it. At this moment the king of Sweden arrived, burning with impatience to attack his enemy. He was informed of the signature of the treaty, and ob-

served the Russians moving off in good order. Enraged to the highest degree, the unfortunate prince proceeded to the tent of the grand-vizir, overwhelmed him with reproaches and abuse, remounted his horse and returned to Bender in despair. He found his camp inundated by the Dniester; and, as if from a secret presentiment of what was to happen, he retired to an eminence, and there ordered a spacious stone building, capable of sustaining an assault, to be erected. The vizir meanwhile sent to intimate to the Swedish monarch that it was necessary for him to quit the Ottoman dominions. Charles refused; his supplies of provisions were then withheld; but this produced no

effect on that intractable prince. At length the dyvan offered to furnish him with an escort of seven or eight thousand men ; but he was apprehensive of being delivered up to king Augustus. He then required that his debts should be paid ; this demand was agreed to ; but still he persisted in his refusal to quit Bender ; and, though the captive of the sultan, he was not afraid to bid him open defiance. His provisions were again cut off, and his guard of janissaries was withdrawn. The greater part of his troops had already forsaken him, and he was left with the officers of his household and about three hundred Swedes, who were devotedly attached to him. With this little body he cal-

culated upon resisting a force of twenty thousand Tartars and six thousand Turks, who surrounded him on all sides. Charles, whom nothing could surprise, entrenched himself in his house and prepared to sustain a siege; in vain did his servants upon their knees endeavour to overcome his obstinacy. The Turks advanced with ten pieces of cannon and two mortars, shouting *Allah! Allah!* but without mingling in their vociferations any abuse whatever of the king, whom they merely termed *demyr-bach*, iron head. The janissaries had little difficulty to storm the entrenchments; not more than twenty of the Swedes drew their swords, and the three hundred were surrounded

and made prisoners without resistance. The king alone defended himself; he wounded all who approached his person, and at length shut himself up in an apartment which he had cleared of the enemy. From this place he made a great carnage, firing through certain apertures at his enemies, who nearly touched the muzzle of his piece. It was at length reluctantly resolved to set fire to the house: the undaunted Charles rushed through the flames, and was forcing his way towards the house of the chancery, which stood next to his own, but, falling among the ruins, he threw his sword in the air that he might not be obliged to surrender it. The janissaries immediately secured

him, and carried him off in their arms, with great care and respect and shouts of victory. This event, one of the most extraordinary recorded in history, occurred on the 12th of February, 1713.

The pacha of Bender awaited the issue of the combat gravely seated in his tent; he received the king of Sweden with profound respect, and congratulated him on being alive and unhurt. The king's officers were chained together two and two indiscriminately with the captive soldiers; and Charles XII. who had given law to so many states, who had been the arbiter of the north and the terror of Europe, was carried a prisoner and disarmed to

Adrianople, and thence to the small town of Demotica.

At the very time when Charles was on the road from Bender to Adrianople, Stanislaus, king of Poland, being found in the Turkish territories, was conducted a prisoner to the city which the king of Sweden had just left. Stanislaus, who was indebted to the latter for his crown, being unable to retain it, had consented to abdicate, for the purpose of preserving the dominions of his benefactor. On this occasion the captive monarch observed: "If my friend is resolved not to be a king, I shall very soon make another." Stanislaus, however, determined to visit Charles in person, to represent to him the critical state of

his affairs, and to beseech him not to sacrifice the interest of Sweden to that of an unfortunate friend. Accordingly, having privately quitted the Swedish army which he commanded in Pomerania, and arrived, after numberless dangers, on the frontiers of Turkey, he was there recognized, made prisoner, and sent under an escort to the same city where Charles had signalized himself by such extraordinary exploits. The Turks admired the Swedish monarch, though the dyvan, incensed at his conduct, threatened to exile him, as well as Stanislaus, to an island of the Archipelago: but some time afterwards the grand-signor ordered the latter to be

allowed to depart, yet without permitting him to see his friend.

Charles still continued to be strictly watched at Demotiea, where he kept his bed for ten months, under pretext of illness, to avoid complying with the invitation of the vizir who had sent for him. Having received intelligence of the desolation of all his provinces situated out of Sweden, where a report of his death was circulated, he suddenly quitted his bed, and took such violent exercise that he fell ill in reality. At length, he intimated to the vizir that he wished to depart; the sultan, glad to get rid of so troublesome a guest, sent him a rich tent, arms, Arabian horses,

sixty waggons loaded with provisions, and three hundred horses for his people ; and the conqueror of the north, escorted by a capydjy and tchaouchs, who had orders to accompany him to the frontiers, set out on the 1st of October, 1714, on his departure from the Ottoman empire.

The peace enjoyed by Turkey was disturbed by a quarrel in which it was involved with the republic of Venice on account of the Morea. The dyvan made great preparations to reconquer that peninsula, and at the same time to cover the frontiers of Transylvania, Hungary and Poland. The Venitians were lulled into a fatal security, and before they had raised the force neces-

sary for withstanding a powerful foe, the Morea was again under the yoke of the Porte. Austria interfered in this quarrel, and as her mediation was rejected, she declared war against the Turks. The two armies met at Peterwaradin: prince Eugene, who commanded the Imperialists, attacked the Turks on the 25th of August, 1716. He had the art to avoid their first onset, which alone is to be feared, surrounded and completely routed them; and while their scattered troops were rallying at Belgrade, the Austrian general took Temeswar. In spite of this reverse, the Porte continued the war; and the Imperialists laid siege to Belgrade. Notwithstanding the most vigorous resist-

ance the city was taken. The sultan, convinced of the necessity of peace which he ought not to have broken, now opened negotiations. The congress of Passarowitz, after some discussion, concluded peace on the 21st of July, 1718, on the basis of *uti possidetis*, that is to say, each party retained what it possessed at the moment of signing the treaty.

The peace lasted some years, when troubles breaking out in Persia, excited the ambition both of the Turks and the Russians. The latter threatened an invasion of the country, which the grand-signor made preparations to oppose or to profit by. France offered her mediation, which was accepted, and for that

time the storm blew over. A treaty fixed the limits of Turkey and Russia, and Persia alone suffered by this compromise. In 1721 the Ottomans renewed their hostile pretensions against that kingdom, then distracted by internal revolutions. The death of the czar Peter the Great, left an open field to the Turks, who already threatened Ispahan: but revolts at Cairo and Smyrna compelled the dyvan to accommodate matters with Persia, by a peace which was nevertheless highly advantageous to the Turks, since they retained the possession of great part of that extensive kingdom and the acknowledged supremacy over almost all the rest of it: but this glorious prosperity was

soon eclipsed by a phenomenon which none of the powers that occupied the great theatre of the world could either have feared or expected. Nadir Gaganir, afterwards so celebrated by the name of Thahmas-Kuli-Khan, son of a shepherd, sold his father's flocks, expended the money in collecting a band of robbers, and began to plunder caravans. After carrying on these depredations for seven years, and increasing his troop to five thousand men, he resolved to engage in a more glorious warfare ; he therefore offered himself and his little army to his sovereign. Shah Thahmas, closely pressed by the Afghans, accepted this assistance, for which he was doomed to pay dearly. While Nadir

was engaged in reducing Khorasan Shah Thahmas, being apprized that the Ottomans threatened Persia, marched against them, was defeated in a great battle near Eryvan, and signed a disgraceful peace. This peace, instead of being ratified by the ambitious Nadir, excited his indignation, and war was resolved upon.

The Persians demanded the provinces of which the Porte had possessed itself. The latter expected nothing less than war: the troops were disbanded or dispersed; the sultan and his ministers, engaged in frivolous pursuits, were lulled to sleep in the lap of sloth and effeminacy, regardless of the discontent of the people and the complaints of the

janissaries. Recourse was had to a very dangerous expedient, particularly among the Turks, that of imposing a fresh tax to defray the expenses of the war : the news of the taking of Tauryz by the Persians excited murmurs, and the minds of the people became more and more inflamed. An Albanian, named Khalyl Patrona, a turbulent man, who had escaped capital punishment, and two other janissaries, who like him, followed the trade of pedlars, became the instruments of the ruin of a powerful monarch.

These factious men began with declaiming against the new tax. On the 28th of September, 1730, about nine o'clock in the morning, the populace

rose at their instigation, and the troops assembled in the Atineidan, and murdered their officers who came to appease the tumult. The grand-signor, shut up in his seraglio, ordered the rebels to lay down their arms and disperse, but to no purpose: he had no soldiers to send against them, and at length enquired the object of their assembling. Patrona demanded that the mufty, the grand-vizir, his kiahya, the caïmaeam and the reïs-effendy should be given up to them to be put to death. While waiting for the sultan's answer, they plundered the residences of those officers, and as they threatened to force the seraglio, Achmet was obliged to deliver to them those ministers with the exception of

the mufty, who was exiled, because the law does not allow his life to be taken away. The audacity and insolence of the insurgents increased with their success: not content with this concession they openly demanded the deposition of the sultan, on the 2d of October, 1730. Achmet, forsaken by all his supporters, and convinced of his inability to struggle with his ill fortune, went to Mahmud's apartments and giving his hand to that prince: "The wheel has turned both for you and for me," said he conducting him to the hall of the dyvan; "I give up to you the empire which my brother Mustapha resigned to me on a similar occasion. Remember that Mahomet IV. that your father Mustapha, and myself,

were hurled from the throne which you are mounting, because we placed too much confidence in our ministers. See every thing with your own eyes and beware of that sloth which proved our ruin. Be severe, but just. I recommend to you my children and myself." After this exhortation he returned to the apartments from which he had taken his nephew, and where he was destined to pass the remainder of his life.

MAHMUD I.

TWENTY-FOURTH EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1730—1754.

The new emperor desired to see the man who had raised him to the throne. Khalyl Patrona appeared before him in the dress of a janissary and bare-legged just as he was before the revolution. His looks bespoke a bold but ferocious spirit. The emperor offered him a reward; he asked for nothing but the abolition of the tax recently imposed, which was immediately granted. Presents were distributed among the troops, who nevertheless refused to lay down their

arms, and did what they pleased. Patrona defied the ministers and gave appointments to his creatures ; but the abuse of the authority assumed by the rebels prepared their downfall. The dyvan secretly agreed to get rid of the three ringleaders. On the 25th of October they were summoned to the seraglio, separated by surprize from their accomplices, and dispatched with daggers in the very hall of the dyvan. Those who had accompanied them into the seraglio were then sent for ; and upon pretence of rewarding them, they were successively conducted five at a time into a vestibule, where they were disarmed and put to death. These executions, instead of exciting the slightest move-

ment of sedition, gave the greatest joy to the inhabitants of the capital, who could not patiently brook all the disorders that were daily occasioned by the licentiousness of the insurgents.

It was a difficult task for the grand-vizir to restore order and economy ; the spirit of rebellion was not completely extinguished, and the sparks of the smothered fire kept continually bursting forth into a new flame. The high price of bread and other necessaries of life rendered the people dissatisfied with the government. At length the grand-vizir could perceive no other means of stifling rebellion than to make peace with Persia. Tauryz and all the country beyond the Araxes were restored

to it, and Georgia was ceded by it to the Turks. Thahmas-Kuli-Khan, displeased with this treaty, deposed Shah-Thahmas, banished him to Khorasan, where he soon caused him to be murdered, proclaimed a new-born infant son of the unfortunate monarch sofy, by the name of Shah-Abbas, and declared himself regent of the kingdom. This important revolution took place in the month of August, 1731. Thahmas-Kuli-Khan immediately renewed the war with Turkey, and threatened Bagdad; but all the governors of Asia having joined the Ottoman troops, he was defeated and wounded. The grand-vizir pursued and compelled him to sue for peace. The Turkish general, proud of his

advantage, attacked his enemy with a small number of men, but was vanquished in his turn, and killed in the engagement: his troops disheartened fled in disorder. The Persian usurper drove them beyond Tauryz, and advanced upon Bagdad, which was thrown by this disaster into great consternation. The pacha who governed there lost no time in concluding peace; but the dyvan deposed him and disavowed the treaty. Fresh dissensions in Europe however induced the Porte to renew the negotiations, and to cede Georgia and Armenia to Persia.

About this time Russia reduced Asof and soon afterwards Oczakow and Kilbournou, while the Austrian troops,

under general Wallis, entered Wallachia, and laid Moldavia under contribution; but were soon obliged to evacuate the latter province. At length the Turks, after obtaining some advantages, accepted the mediation of France, just at the moment when they were investing Belgrade: and a general peace, destined to ensure for many years the tranquillity of the Ottoman empire, was signed on the 22d of September, 1739.

Mahmud, now in peaceable possession of the throne, was wholly engrossed with pleasure, the means of filling his exchequer, and the superintendence of the police of his capital. He greatly regretted his having no children. Those

of sultan Achmet were advancing in age, and he was apprehensive that after him the empire would be distracted by dissensions. As, however, the splendour of the sultan and his ministers was kept up only by oppressive measures, the people murmured at these abuses and at the tyranny of the officers of the seraglio. The body of the ulemas could not even obtain justice for outrages committed on one of its members. The complaints of the people could not reach the throne, on which the monarch slumbered, and the general discontent manifested itself in frequent fires, which lasted upwards of twenty days, consumed great part of the city and gave occasion to numberless disorders. At length

Mahmud's brother-in-law, a vizir nearly eighty years old, throwing himself at the feet of his Highness, represented to him, that the conflagrations which desolated the capital were but the expression of the public dissatisfaction, on account of the abuse of his confidence by the qyzlar-agma and his creatures. The sultan, moved by the remonstrances of the aged vizir, and having consulted the mufty, who held the same language, had the magnanimity to sacrifice his favourites. The qyzlar-agma and the other officers who had given cause for complaint were apprehended and publicly executed, and their property was confiscated.

This exemplary punishment restored

tranquillity, which continued during the remainder of Mahmud's reign. This prince, who was endowed with a mildness of disposition calculated to render his subjects happy, was long afflicted with a disease which at times prevented his leaving the seraglio. The people then murmured, suspecting that the sultan was dead and that his decease was kept secret from them. On Friday the 13th of December, 1754, the officers of the palace prevailed upon him to make an effort to shew himself according to custom, in order to pacify the populace; and the unfortunate monarch expired on his horse, in his return from the mosque, between the two gates of the seraglio. He was fifty-eight years

old and had filled the throne nearly twenty-five.

This event diffused general sorrow throughout the capital. Mildness and humanity, qualities which in a prince nearly concern the peace of society, and are the only pledges of personal security under a despotic government, caused Mahmud's foibles to be forgotten and his memory cherished.

OSMAN, OR OTHMAN III.

TWENTY-FIFTH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1754—1757.

Mahmud's brother, Osman, was proclaimed emperor by the dyvan. No sooner was he seated on the throne than he manifested his incapacity and the fickleness of his disposition. So frequent were the changes in his government, that in less than three years there were six vizirs and as many caïmacams.

This reign was short and barren of events. The only occurrence of sufficient importance to excite any sensation

in the empire was the destruction of a caravan of pilgrims on their return from Meeea, in 1755, by the Arabs of the desert ; but this melaneholy intelligenee did not reach Constantinople till after the death of sultan Osman, and was not productive of the consequences that might have been expected.

MUSTAPHA III.

TWENTY-SIXTH EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1757—1774.

The eldest of the children of sultan Achmet III. who had survived the barbarous designs imputed to Othman, succeeded that prince by the name of Mustapha III. He gave a new existence to the empire; the people, dismayed by the reign of two princes who had not had issue, conceived hopes of seeing the house of Othman flourish once more. Mustapha was moreover fond of study and application; he was austere, just and religious, and possessed equal

penetration and firmness. He reformed the abuses that had crept in since the death of his father, revived the sumptuary laws always enacted in vain against the luxury of the Greeks and the Armenians, suppressed useless places, and retrenched the expenditure of the seraglio. The people hence conceived the idea that the empire was likely to acquire new energy. Raghieb-Mehemet Pacha, an intelligent and enlightened minister, deserved the confidence of his master, who gave him one of his sisters in marriage; and lastly the posterity of sultan Mustapha completely removed all apprehensions from the mind of the public.

The Ottomans were at peace with

their neighbours when, in 1763, the death of Augustus III. king of Poland, changed the aspect of affairs in that part of Europe. Russia interfered in the election of a new king; the Porte took umbrage at this, complained of the assemblage of Russian troops in the vicinity of Turkey, and war was soon declared. The courts of Berlin and Vienna, after offering their mediation to the two powers, marched troops into Poland upon the pretext of restoring tranquillity there; and that kingdom, rent by civil wars, covered with ashes and blood, and having a sovereign without power, was completely at their mercy. The Austrian and Prussian troops took possession of such pro-

vinces as lay conveniently for their respective sovereigns. The Poles solicited to no purpose the interference of the other European powers ; France, Spain and England, who had recently concluded an expensive war, felt little interested in the preservation of the balance of the north, and Holland was solely occupied with the extension of its commerce. The Poles fought desperately in the interior of their country, in behalf of its expiring liberty ; while Austria, Russia and Prussia, jointly supported the pretensions which they had set up ; and the provinces claimed by those powers were at length subjected to a yoke which they could not avoid. Stanislaus Augustus, without

allies, troops or money, was compelled to ratify the dismemberment of a kingdom, which had been but a moment under his guidance.

It was to the interest of the Ottoman court to prevent the partition of Poland, and to protect that country against the ambition of Russia; but its measures were taken too late and it could not act with sufficient efficacy to prevent that catastrophe, the consequences of which were destined to prove so fatal to the repose of Europe.

At the conclusion of 1768, the czarina set on foot three armies: one, commanded by prince Gallitzin, was intended to cover Poland and to prevent the Turks from joining the confederates;

the second, under count Romanzow was to protect the Ukraine from the incursions of the Tartars, while a detachment from it was to form a corps of observation on the frontiers of the Crimea; and the third, of less force, was to march to the provinces bordering upon the Caucasus, and to encourage insurrection among the petty princes tributary to the Ottoman empire, from Georgia to Trebisond.

The court of Russia availed itself also of the aversion excited by religious opinions against the Turks, to raise an insurrection of the Greek Christians in Albania, the Morea and Greece. A fleet of twenty-two ships was equipped to make the circuit of Europe and to

proceed into the Archipelago with troops, money, and military stores, for the purpose of arming the Greeks : and a flotilla was to sail down the Don into the Black Sea, in order to intercept in that quarter all communication between Asia and the Crimea.

The Ottoman Porte unused for upwards of thirty years to war, was unable to oppose its foe with so formidable a force. Its measures were ill concerted. It nevertheless dispatched vessels and troops to the points that were threatened ; but there was neither order, harmony, nor foresight in any of its movements.

The Ottoman army traversed Moldavia, with a view to enter Poland ; and

after several marches and counter-marches without any definite object, it was beaten by prince Gallitzin and the capture of the town of Khoczim made the Russians masters of Moldavia, and part of Wallachia, the conquest of which was completed by count Romanzow during the winter of 1769. The Russian army in Asia excited insurrection in the provinces contiguous to Georgia ; its progress, however, was but momentary, and the diversion attempted in Albania was not more successful.

The campaign of 1770 began in the south. The Russian fleet, commanded by count Orlow, proceeded to the coast of the Morea, where the Greeks impatiently awaited succours and arms

to assert their liberty and shake off the Ottoman yoke : but the Russians landed a force of scarcely eight hundred men, and appeared to no purpose before Modon, Napoli di Romania and Navarin. They miscalculated the force of the Greeks, which they deemed adequate to the consummation of the revolution ; they were every where repulsed, and the only effect of this ill concerted diversion was, that they exposed the people of the Morea to the sanguinary vengeance of the Turks.

The Russian fleet then sailed into the Archipelago, and there met that of the Turks within view of Scio. The two admirals attacked each other with such fury that the ship of one of them

having taken fire, the flames communicated to the other, and both blew up nearly at the same moment. The Turks, daunted by this tremendous accident, fled to Chesmeh, landed their guns and formed batteries with them in order to protect themselves from insult ; but the Russian fleet, approaching the harbour, detached four fire-ships ; these were driven by the wind among the Ottoman vessels, which they grappled ; the flames spread rapidly and the whole fleet was consumed to ashes. The Russians, being now masters of the Archipelago, reduced the islands which were defenceless, and greatly injured the Turkish commerce. Their success near the Danube also was brilliant.

The Turks, routed and pursued by Romanzow, abandoned Ismaïlow, re-crossed the Danube, and allowed the enemy to make himself master of Bender and Bahilow.

The discomfiture of the Ottomans in the Archipelago and on the Danube spread consternation throughout the empire; the remote provinces manifested a disposition to throw off the yoke. Ali-beyg, one of the chief members of the government of Egypt, made himself almost absolute master of that country: he then carried the war into Syria, and, in concert with the governor of St. Jean d'Acre, reduced the principal cities, and imposed a considerable contribution on the city of Aleppo.

In the succeeding campaign the Russians were indebted for their trophies solely to the inexperience and the despondency of the Turks ; their progress, however, toward the Crimea, was inconsiderable, while their fleet in the Mediterranean made some unsuccessful attempts upon Rhodes, and proceeded, likewise to no purpose, to Negropont and the gulf of Salonichi.

In 1772, the two courts accepted the mediation of the emperor of Germany and the king of Prussia, and agreed to an armistice ; but a congress, which met in Wallachia, was soon broken up, because the Russians insisted on the independence of the Crimea and freedom of navigation in the Black Sea. The

armistice was nevertheless prolonged, and the commissioners of the Porte repaired to Bueharest, where the conferences were renewed but with no better success. The Porte meanwhile abated none of its preparations for war. In 1773 it dispatched a squadron into the Black Sea, and reinforced its army on the Danube. Several insignificant affairs took place in that quarter; and the Russians were baffled in an attempt to make themselves masters of Silistria. Turkish troops were sent to Egypt and attacked Ali-beyg near Cairo: he was defeated, taken prisoner and died of his wounds.

Sultan Mustapha, who had not been disheartened by any of the reverses

which he had sustained, finding his health daily declining, sent for his brother Abdul Hamyd, the last of Achmet's sons, laid before him the state of the empire, over which he would soon rule; acquainted him with the plans he had formed for its government, and for continuing the war or accomplishing an honourable peace. At length this prince, one of the best that ever swayed the Turkish sceptre, died on the 21st of January, 1774, recommending his only son Selym to Abdul Hamyd. Mustapha was born in 1716, and had reigned sixteen years and five months.

ABDUL HAMYD.

TWENTY-SEVENTH EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1774—1789.

This prince, born in 1725, and confined at the age of six years, had lived forty-four years in captivity. He marked his accession to the throne by the most favourable dispositions. He confirmed the ministers in their posts, issued orders for prosecuting the preparations for war, augmented his navy with ships purchased abroad, and thus strengthened the naval force destined for the Archipelago and the Black Sea.

His army assembled on the banks of the Danube received a check from the Russians, who crossed that river, and forced the Porte to sue for peace, which was signed the same year, on conditions by no means advantageous to the Turks.

Abdul Hamyd, however, profited by this opportunity to quell the disturbances which had broken out in the Asiatic provinces. Several rebels were put to death. Syria and Egypt were not the only theatres of insurrection and dissension. Bagdad and Bassorah had been taken by the Persians; and the Morea, where the Russians had originally excited commotions, was still at the discretion of a body of Greeks

and Albanians, whom the Turks could not till long afterwards disperse.

Russia was meanwhile ready to seize the first favourable occasion to renew the war. Elated by her success, she conceived that she could not require too much, while the Porte, though humbled by its disasters, had still too high a confidence in its courage and resources to brook an insult. The two empires were on the point of a rupture, when France lent her mediation, and the peace of Kudjuk-Cainardjy, signed in August 1774, being adopted for the basis of the reconciliation, was renewed at Ainahly Cavac on the 21st of June, 1779. By virtue of this treaty Russia was left in final possession of the

Crimea and the Kuban. The empress Catherine caused the town, fortress and port of Cherson to be constructed at the mouth of the Borysthenes, with a view to make it the capital of the country. In 1781 the Tartars of the Crimea having revolted, Russia marched troops towards the Crimea and the Ukraine. The Porte also on its part dispatched troops to the frontiers of Servia, and erected batteries at the mouth of the Black Sea. A treaty signed at Constantinople on the 21st of June, 1783, confirmed Russia in the possession of the Crimea, and afforded Turkey a momentary peace.

The pretensions incessantly renewed by the Russians, and the instability of

treaties, were not the only embarrassments experienced by the dyvan. The Albanians ravaged the Morea, from which it was found very difficult to expel them. Asia was agitated by three impostors, who went from province to province seducing the people by their fanatical harangues. These enthusiasts even obtained some advantages over the troops that were sent against them. Egypt was a prey to fresh troubles: but the beygs who shared among themselves the administration of that kingdom, were reduced to reason by the high-admiral, Hassan-Pacha, who returned to Constantinople with spoils won from the rebels,

In 1787 the empress Catherine determined to visit Cherson, with the intention, as it was positively asserted, of there assuming the crown of the Taurida. She sent a great number of troops into the Crimea; the Turks took umbrage, and put themselves in a posture of defence.

No sooner did the Ottoman Porte think itself capable of retrieving its losses, than it formally claimed the restitution of the Crimea, and on the refusal of the empress to give it up, declared war against her. Hostilities first commenced on the Black Sea. The Russians marched troops towards Bessarabia and Moldavia; and the emperor of Austria, allied by a treaty with

Russia, deemed it incumbent on him to fulfil his engagements. He nevertheless offered, jointly with France, his good offices to the Porte for the restoration of harmony between the two powers, but was unable to effect it, and both parties took the field.

The Austrians reduced Dresnih in Croatia; the emperor in person laid siege to Schabacz and made himself master of it, but was baffled in an attempt on Semendria. The Ottomans gained some advantages in Transylvania, penetrated into Slavonia and the Baunat, and threatened Hungary. The emperor flew to the protection of that country and expelled the enemy. The

Russians, commanded by Romanzow, could not effect a junction with the Austrians till late in the season, before Khoczim, which surrendered after an obstinate defence.

The campaign in the Black Sea was not less honourable to the Ottoman navy. Hassan-Pacha worsted the Russians in several encounters, but could not prevent the fall of Oczakow, a place of great importance and the key to the Crimea.

While all eyes were turned toward the Ottoman empire, which thus made head with advantage against two powerful sovereigns, the rest of Europe was threatened with storms which first

broke over the north, and shed the seeds of a revolution that was destined to convulse the world.

Abdul Hamyd died in 1789, regretted by his subjects, and leaving the throne to his nephew, Selym, son of Mustapha III.

SELYM III.

TWENTY-EIGHTH EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1789—1807.

Selym was twenty-six years old when he succeeded his uncle, Abdul Hamyd, in April 1789. Born at the beginning of 1763, this prince had passed the first sixteen years of his life at court, and had been confined in the seraglio during the unfortunate reign of his predecessor only. When he ascended the throne the Turks hailed him as a deliverer. Governed for a long series of years by monarchs, who had been all their lives

immured in a prison, till they were summoned to wield the sceptre, they flattered themselves that the education of their new prince would have a favourable influence on his conduct ; but Selym, though endowed with qualities that might have made his people happy, had not the firmness, the presence of mind, and the experience, required by the critical situation of the empire.

In the very first year of his reign, the united force of general Suwarrow and the prince of Coburg gained a signal victory over the Turks ; the fortresses of Bender and Ismail were taken ; all Moldavia fell into the hands of the Russians ; and the Austrians made themselves masters of Belgrade. The

treaty of Yassy put an end to the war : but the Russians retained the country situated between the Bog and the Dniester, and obtained for Moldavia and Wallachia privileges hostile to the interests of the Porte.

Paswan-Oghlu, by the repeated advantages which he gained over the Ottoman troops, demonstrated the extreme weakness of this once formidable empire.

On the 1st of July, 1798, a French army landed in Egypt, and that country, already so fertile in important events, became once more a theatre of glory for the French. We shall not enter into a narrative of that expedition. Who can have forgotten the celebrated battles of

the Pyramids, El Arysh, Mount Tabor, Aboukir and Heliopolis?*

Meanwhile the Russians, whose ambition was but increased by success,

* It will be recollected that the author is a Frenchman. He may therefore be forgiven for passing over without censure this unprincipled invasion of the dominions of a neutral, if not a friendly power, by his revolutionizing countrymen, with the child and champion of jacobinism at their head. We can also forgive him his exultation on account of victories won by European veterans over the undisciplined and semi-barbarous troops of Egypt and Turkey: but if the French covered themselves with such glory by their achievements in this quarter, we leave the author to calculate how much more glorious must be the efforts of that nation, which annihilated their fleet at Aboukir, which set limits to their conquests at St. Jean d'Acre, and which in a short time wrested from their grasp all the fruits of this ostentatious expedition.

invaded Georgia. The Servians, headed by Czerni-Georges, obtained important advantages; and the Wahabys, a new sect, sprung up in Arabia, possessed themselves of the two sacred cities of Mecca and Medina. Moldavia and Wallachia were wrested from Turkey, and Romelia was harassed by the incursions of banditti.

To these disasters abroad was superadded the general discontent of the ulemas, the janissaries and the people at home. Selym, deeply afflicted by the calamities of the empire, hoped to apply a remedy, by introducing into the civil and military departments a new system, borrowed in part from that of the European states.

This new system, to which was given the appellation of *nizam-djedyd* (which signifies, new order, new regulations), consisted in the adoption of the modern military tactics, in a reform of the tymars, and in the creation of fresh imposts, which were intended to ensure the payment of the troops trained in the European manner. Selym moreover created the post of *nizam-djedyd-defter-dary*, or minister of finance, for the receipts arising from the new taxes. He placed the administration of the navy under the inspection of the *bahryeh-naziry*, a minister who superseded the former *tersaneh-emyny*, or intendant of the admiralty. Lastly, he formed a new

corps of regular troops, under the denomination of *moallem-asker*.

Whoever possesses the slightest knowledge of the character of the Turks will easily conceive with what an eye such innovations were viewed by all pious Musulmans: to resemble the Christians ever so little was in their opinion to infringe all laws divine and human, and to debase the dignity of the true believer. Time and prudence might perhaps have surmounted the obstacles to the new system; but Selym imagined that vigour in the execution would accomplish his object, and learned too late how egregiously he was mistaken. The janissaries, exasperated at the institution of a

new class of troops, swore to annihilate them or to hurl from the throne the sovereign by whom they were raised. For a long time they confined themselves to words, consultations and conflagrations : but at length they broke out into actual revolt.

War having been declared against Russia, towards the conclusion of 1806, the grand-vizir took the field, and committed the guard of the important castles of the Black Sea to a garrison of janissaries, among whom was the famous Cabatchy, the ringleader of the revolution of 1807. Mahmud, the reīs-effendy, was charged with the inspection of that garrison and the supply of its wants. Selym, weary of the dissensions which

thwarted his plans, resolved to incorporate the janissaries into the new regiments. If proper measures had been pursued, and above all, if good use had been made of the time, the animosity which prevailed between the two classes of troops might have been stifled ; but the fairest opportunities for accomplishing this end were lost. When Mahmud communicated to the new garrison the imperial command, enjoining the assumption of the uniform of the new troops, a sudden agitation took place among the janissaries. The reïs-effendy sought to escape their fury by flight, but was soon overtaken and put to death. Dreading the consequences of this atrocious procedure, the janissaries

determined upon insurrection, and marched to the capital with the intention of dethroning Selym. On reaching Constantinople, on the 27th of May, 1807, they repaired to the Atmeidan; after deliberating what to do, they hoisted their kettles, the usual signal of mutiny, and advanced toward the seraglio, the gates of which they found shut. They demanded the head of the bostandjy-bachy; with a compliance unworthy of a sovereign, Selym caused the unfortunate officer to be decapitated, and with his head he paid a worthy tribute to their ferocity. Emboldened by success, and their numbers swelled by multitudes of vagabonds, they gave full scope to their rage. The ministers

were all murdered ; at the same time the mufty, the caïmacam and the ulemas, the constant organs of the stronger party, assembled ; and the head of religion decreed that Selym could no longer fill the throne, because he had no children, and his reign had been always unfortunate. On receiving this declaration of the sacred interpreter of the Koran, Selym descended from the throne, repaired to the apartment of the princes of the imperial blood, invited his cousin Mustapha to take the sceptre, and implored him to spare his life.

MUSTAPHA IV.

TWENTY-NINTH EMPEROR OF THE
TURKS.

1807.

Mustapha, seated on the throne by the janissaries, was completely under the authority of the audacious mufty and the haughty ulemas, and the influence of the insolent soldiery: he abolished the new taxes, promised to restore the former customs and swore to extend the empire to its ancient limits. The people repeated this oath with enthusiasm, and seemed to be for a moment electrified; but when this first ardour

had once cooled, the dreadful anarchy which rent the state was but the more manifest. The sounder class of the nation could not view without shuddering all the horrors of this situation. They began already to regret the deposition of Selym, a prince, who, though weak, had made the welfare of his subjects the chief object of his anxiety; they durst not yet express a desire to replace him on the throne; but intimated that a change in the state was indispensably necessary. Such was the state of the public mind at Constantinople.

As soon as the revolution which had taken place in the capital was known on the banks of the Danube, a strong fer-

mentation was excited in the army. The janissaries, considering their chief officers and the grand-vizir as partisans of Sclym, of the prince who attempted to counterbalance their power, that he might afterwards destroy it, endeavoured to sow discord among the troops. The Russian general, apprized of these intrigues, availed himself of them to act on the offensive, and forced the Turks to fall back into the interior of Bulgaria.

Notwithstanding this reverse, the disgrace of which ought to have fired all the troops in the empire with one sentiment—that of retrieving it—the janissaries prosecuted their machinations against the partisans of Sclym. They

finally succeeded. The grand-vizir was apprehended and soon afterwards beheaded. Mustapha Baïractor, or the standard-bearer, then agha of Rudschuk, assumed the command of the army. Meanwhile the Turkish fleet was completely beaten between Lemnos and Monte Santo.

Mustapha Baïractor, who was now about to act a conspicuous part, had raised himself by his valour. Born of poor parents, he had in early youth been engaged in agriculture and afterwards dealt in horses. In the war which preceded this revolution he had distinguished himself by extraordinary bravery and natural talents. The surname of *Baïractor*, or Bairacdar—standard-

bearer—was given to him because he had taken a pair of colours from the enemy and retained it in spite of numerous wounds and the superiority of his antagonists. This brilliant action attracted the notice of the army, and won the confidence of his predecessor, Tersanik-Oghlu, agha of Rudschuk. He accompanied him in all his campaigns, especially in the war with Paswan Oghlu, attended him in 1804 to Rudschuk, and at length succeeded him. Mustapha Bairactar conceived the design of putting an end to the anarchy by replacing Selym on the throne; he alone possessed the courage requisite for the execution of such a design, and on him the hopes of Constantinople were founded. In

the prosecution of his purpose he suddenly marched with part of his army to Adrianople, and after some conferences with the grand-vizir he proceeded direct to Constantinople. These two generals, whose troops were united under the standard of the Prophet, encamped not far from the walls of the capital. Mustapha's real intentions were as yet but matter of conjecture; he gave out that he was come only to pay homage to his new master. The sultan either was or feigned to be convinced of his sincerity, and went forth with his whole court to meet the sacred standard. He was received in the camp with all the honours due to imperial majesty; but it was not long before the governor of

the forts of the Bosphorus, who had contributed to Mustapha's elevation, was assassinated by unknown persons. The agha of the janissaries, the mufty and the ulemas of his party were displaced. So far Mustapha had rendered a service to the sultan, who had been a mere tool in the hands of his ministers; but on the 28th of July, that general made his entry into Constantinople, at the head of eight thousand men, cashiered the grand-vizir, assembled the ulemas and the mufty, and borrowing the sacred voice of religion, deposed the new sultan and at the same time advanced toward the seraglio for the purpose of demanding Selym. The gates were shut at his approach, and Musta-

pha IV. thinking to secure the crown for himself and to deprive Selym's partisans of all hopes, ordered that prince to be put to death. The execution of this command was committed to the haznadar agha (private treasurer) the buyuk-embrokhor (chief equerry) and baeh-tehocadar (governor of the pages). As soon as Selym perceived them, he suspected their intention and drew his poniard to defend himself. The three murderers instantly rushed upon him, and while one of them cut the cord of a pendulum to strangle him with, another plunged a poisoned dagger into his bosom and the prince expired without uttering a word. His corpse was wrapped in a carpet, and carried to the gate of

the seraglio, which opened only to exhibit to the view of Mustapha Bairactar the bleeding body of his beloved master. At this horrid sight, Bairactar was overwhelmed with affliction: he embraced the lifeless corse, covered it with kisses, bathed it with tears, and swore to be revenged.

Thus died at the age of about forty-four years one of the best princees that ever reigned over the Ottoman empire, and whose memory will never cease to be cherished by those foreigners to whom he was known. Just and humane, but too weak to sustain the sinking fortunes of the empire, he had the mortification to be aware of its despe-

rate state, without being able to apply a remedy. The future always seemed to him to present a most gloomy prospect. For more than ten years he deplored the condition of his subjects. Superior to the Turks in the elevation of his sentiments, the extent of his acquirements, and the correctness of his judgment, he had measured the immense distance which parted them from Europeans in point of knowledge, which he made it his particular study to propagate. He gave a kind reception to foreigners, re-established printing-houses, encouraged talents of all kinds, and combated fanaticism and prejudice with all his might; but these very ef-

forts, which will hand down his name to posterity, were the principal cause of his downfall.

As to his person, it was a perfect mirror of the qualities of his mind. His physiognomy was pleasing; his eyes had a serenity not often observed among the Turks: large features, a black bushy beard and a well-shaped bust distinguished him among the handsomest men of his court; but his lower extremities, like those of the Orientals in general, fell short of the due proportions, so that in reality he was not a good figure excepting on horseback. In compliance with the laws of the empire, which require every Musulman to

know some trade or other, he had learned that of a painter on muslin.

Mustapha IV. who hoped to secure the empire by putting Selym to death, derived no other fruit from his crime than the disgrace of having perpetrated it : for he was conducted from the throne to the prison of his victim.



57
Portrait of the Emperor of the East

MAHMUD II.

THIRTIETH EMPEROR OF THE TURKS.

1807.

On the deposition of Mustapha IV. his brother Mahmud was proclaimed sultan. On the 11th of August, the new prince repaired to the great mosque to be inaugurated, and immediately after the ceremony there appeared a khatty-cheryf conferring on Mustapha Bairactar the dignity of grand-vizir, with which the wishes of the people had already invested him. His first care was to rid himself by death or exile of the adherents of Mustapha, and to crush

the party of the janissaries. He caused the castles of the Dardanelles, garrisoned by the rebels, to be evacuated, and sent a detachment of the artillery to occupy them ; and the new commandant received orders to put his predecessor to death. For several days the heads of the principal officers in the preceding reign were exhibited on the gates of the seraglio.

If the sober class, the great majority of the nation, applauded the appointment of Mustapha Bairactar, the janissaries could not without horror behold their most inveterate enemy raised to the second, or rather to the first place in the empire. From this contrariety of sentiments arose two parties, that of

the grand-vizir and that of the janissaries, which was less numerous but more powerful than the other. Nothing but a bloody and decisive catastrophe could put an end to the state of continual warfare that subsisted between them. The circumstances are as follow:—

So soon as the 10th of December, 1808, that is, three months after Mahmud's inauguration seditious movements were observed at Constantinople. Troops successively arrived from the Dardanelles and from the interior of Romelia: on the 14th the janissaries attacked the seymens and this was the signal for a fresh revolution. Several obstinate conflicts took place between

these two bodies, always to the disadvantage of the seymens. The janissaries, after murdering the agha appointed over them by Mustapha Bairaetar, elected another. In the night of the 16th they set fire to the palace of that minister, and posted themselves in such a manner that they could scarcely fail to intercept him in case he should not perish by the flames. Being fortunate enough, however, to effect his escape, he took refuge in the seraglio, where the other chief officers of the Porte had likewise sought an assylum. On the morning of the 15th the city of the Constantines was but one vast scene of carnage and conflagration. The janissaries were masters of the city,

properly so called; the suburbs were in the hands of the sekbans or seymens; while Bairactar's troops and a numerous artillery defended the seraglio. Two brigs and two ships of the line, lying in the harbour, cannonaded the city and the janissaries who appeared upon the shore, and intercepted the communication between the suburbs of Galata and Pera. The fighting was kept up for two days without intermission; and for two days the flames continued their ravages: the seymens made an obstinate resistance. Mustapha Bairactar paraded the streets at the head of a few thousand men, hastening to every point where the danger was most urgent, encouraging the troops by ex-

hortation and example, and issuing orders with extraordinary coolness. Twenty times he fell upon the janissaries, and carried destruction into their ranks. It was for a moment doubtful to which side victory would incline ; at length, in the evening of the 16th, the janissaries gained the ascendancy, and on the 17th the face of things was entirely changed. Mustapha Bairactar was no more : the new troops, beaten at all points, were compelled to seek safety in flight. The fleet and the artillery had declared in favour of the janissaries, who were masters of Tophanah, the arsenal, the shipping and Galata ; and the sultan, having lost his principal officers, came to terms with

the rebels. On the 18th the gates of the seraglio were thrown open, and Mahmud, after causing his brother Mustapha IV. to be strangled, repaired to the mosque to perform Friday's devotions. The partisans of Bairactar were put to death and the janissaries resumed their influence. The public tranquillity was nevertheless gradually restored, and in a fortnight Constantinople was perfectly quiet. The shops were open, the artisans pursued their occupations, the police was administered as usual, and a stranger arriving in that unfortunate capital would have known nothing of the revolution of the 14th of December, had not the heaps of ashes and ruins that met his view

and the offensive effluvia arising from the carcasses of four thousand Musulmans, apprized him of that scene of horror.

Endowed with an intrepidity proof against every trial, and brought up in a way of life that favoured the development of his physical powers, Mustapha Bairactar possessed the qualities of a brave officer, but did not combine with them those of an able minister. Valour is a gift of nature; political sagacity is the result of experience and of the study of mankind. That officer had occasion for nothing but firmness and courage to dethrone Mustapha IV. to punish the rebels, and to restore public order; but when he resolved to attempt

the destruction of the janissaries, a task requiring more address than intrepidity, it was easy to foresee, from his first steps, the fate which awaited him. Elated by success, accustomed to overcome resistance by a more vigorous resistance, he openly attacked that ancient and powerful military body: he removed the officers to whom the men were attached; he lost no opportunity of diminishing its influence; he made a point of carrying Selym's plans into execution; and lastly, he was imprudent enough to keep but a small number of troops about him. From such a line of conduct nothing but rebellion could be expected: yet, while he is liable to censure in this particular, we

cannot but admire that generous intrepidity and that love of his sovereign, which impelled him to confront all dangers in order to save his country.

Since this revolution Constantinople has enjoyed a tranquillity interrupted only by some partial and momentary insurrections. The reign of Mahmud II. has been marked by some important events. One of these is the destruction of the Egyptian Beygs and Mamelukes who were massacred in the castle of Cairo on the 1st of March, 1811. Another is the tragie end of Soleïman the rebel pacha of Bagdad. The operations of the Porte against the ferocious Ali, pacha of Jannina, and the insurrection of its Greek subjects, are circumstances

of such recent occurrence as to render any detail of them unnecessary. Respecting the probable issue of this contest it would be premature in the present stage of the business to offer any opinion.

END OF VOL II.





